

Mrs Thatcher rallies the wavering Tories

The balance of power must be redressed in favour of the individual and away from massed trade unionism, the Prime Minister said yesterday in a noisy debate on Labour's censure motion against the Government. Moving the motion, Mr James Callaghan said Mrs Thatcher's monetarist dream had become a nightmare; she was beginning to lose control of monetary policy.

Callaghan call for change of course

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Barling against contemptuous sneers from the Labour benches in the Commons, the Prime Minister yesterday rallied her supporters with a battery to redress the balance of power in favour of the individual and away from the massed ranks of trade unionism.

It was a resolute and courageous message which brought Tory MPs cheering to their feet and which gave no ground to the waverers in her party and her Cabinet.

Mrs Thatcher was supported by a full panoply of her senior colleagues, including Mr James Prior, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Francis Pym and Mr William Whitelaw.

If Mr James Callaghan, in moving Labour's motion of no confidence in the Government's economic and industrial policies, had hoped for some sign of a reversal of government policy, he would have been disappointed with yesterday's censure debate.

Urging the Government to change course, the Opposition leader told the Prime Minister that she had been "rumbled" by the people and that her monetarist dream had turned into a nightmare.

But there was not the slightest sign of a crack in Mrs Thatcher's resolve and no amount of shouting from the Labour benches could dampen her determination to carry on as she had begun.

With massive emphasis she told the House that the Government remained determined to bring down the growth of the money supply, that could be done in two ways only, by ensuring that borrowing by the private sector did not grow too fast and by reducing the burden of government borrowing.

If monetary targets were to be achieved and either one of those two factors was too high then interest rates must rise. The only sure way of attacking inflation was to keep the money supply closely related to the output of goods and services.

The White Paper on public expenditure which would be published at about the time of the Budget next month, would show substantial cuts on Labour's plans, Mrs Thatcher said.

Indicating that income tax would not be increased in the Budget, Mrs Thatcher went on to say that the only alternative policy to the Government's would be to increase income tax and "surely the opposition is not suggesting that".

Mrs Thatcher was not in a conciliatory mood and she swung into the trade unions with both fists flailing.

Too many trade unions, she said, still seem determined to make demands which would ultimately inflict damage on themselves and on their fellow trade unionists. That was why her government was determined to redress the balance of power.

The last government increased the legal immunities of unions until it seemed that whatever harm they inflicted on others, neither individuals nor industry had any legal redress. Just as the unions had once sought redress from the arbitrary actions of employers, so today individuals and businesses were seeking protection from the power and might of unions.

The Employment Bill, now before the House, began to redress the balance of power in favour of individuals and those not involved in a trade dispute. The sooner union leaders acknowledged the correctness of what was being done the sooner unions would return to public favour and the quicker the economy would recover.

Mr Callaghan, opening the censure debate, made an effective speech which must have given many an anxious moment to Tory MPs some of whom are still not sure of their leader's resilience.

He spoke of a serious deterioration taking place in the social atmosphere of Britain's towns and cities, and scoffed at the Government's employment policies which he detected in the ranks of the Conservative Party and even within the Cabinet.

The Government's almost religious belief in a rigid monetary policy was weakening and bleeding the nation's industries.

The Opposition leader asked whether Mrs Thatcher could truthfully say that her speeches since taking office were intended to bring harmony and unity.

Mr Callaghan produced a plan to resolve the steel strike by suggesting that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service should appoint an independent mediator, with both sides undertaking to accept his findings.

Then, in a courageous passage, the Opposition leader said that the Labour movement would not support practices that intimidated working people or blockaded factories.

Some of those who were trying to get into the slipstream behind the Labour Party should believe that, including those flying pickets who shouldered their way into other people's genuine trade union disputes.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Callaghan concluded, had lost control of prices, employment and earnings and she was beginning to lose control of monetary policy.

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Raiders ask \$50m for ambassador hostages

Bogotá, Feb 28.—Guerrillas holding 14 ambassadors and a number of other hostages at the Dominican Republic embassy in Bogotá made five demands today for the release of their captives.

An official statement said they wanted the release of 311 leftist prisoners, a \$50m (about £22m) ransom, the withdrawal of security forces from around the embassy, publication of a statement and talks with the Colombian Government.

The President's press office said the demands were given to Señor Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, a former Foreign Minister, when he and another negotiator spent an hour in the occupied embassy this morning.

Their statement added that President Ayala told the mediators their report was good material upon which the Government would make a decision.

The press office also said that Mr Vasquez Carrizosa asked the guerrillas, from the M19 movement, to release women who were caught up in the raid yesterday during a reception to mark the Dominican Republic's national day. The guerrillas replied that they would do so only if the Colombian Government agreed to talk.

The statement said the mediators expressed concern about "the wounded", although it was not clear how many injured were in the embassy. There have been persistent but unconfirmed reports that Señor Oscar



A wounded policeman is carried to safety by colleagues after a gunfight with guerrillas in Bogotá.

Gerosiagos, the Paraguayan Chargé d'Affaires, was shot in the shoulder.

The 14 ambassadors being held are from Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and the Vatican. The Bolivian Chargé d'Affaires was also inside the building. The embassy was stormed yesterday by more than 20 guerrillas, and an official statement last night said three soldiers and one civilian were wounded.

The M19 group is one of several leftist and communist groups in Colombia which oppose President Turbay's Government. More than 200 of its members are facing trial on charges including murder, kidnapping, rebellion and armed robbery.

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Five orchestras and 1,500 jobs to go in BBC's £130m cuts

By Kenneth Gosling

Proposals to cut £130m off the BBC's £1,000m budget over the next two years were outlined yesterday to a select committee of 28,000 staff by the director-general of the BBC, Mr Ian Trethowan.

They involve the loss of 1,500 jobs, the dismantling of five of the corporation's "house" orchestras; a 10 per cent cut in schools and continuing education programmes, details of which have still to be worked out; an earlier finish for Radio 3 and some merging of Radio 3 and 4, and the scrapping of the 11-year-old Radio 2 serial *Woggoners' Walk*.

The main savings—£90m—will come from deferring capital expenditure projects and the rest from economies in existing operations. The BBC emphasised the value it attached to preserving the networks but was also at pains to point out that the greatest slice of the cuts will

come in London and not the regions. Local radio plans will continue, with 35 stations in operation by the mid-1980s.

The BBC's unions were handed the proposals and their reactions and those of other interested bodies will be considered by the BBC board of governors when it meets on March 6. It is unlikely that there will be a decision then on whether the package will be implemented as it stands.

Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC radio, said he regretted the need for the cuts. "What is happening is that over the next few years you will see a much slimmer BBC emerging but maybe it will be a BBC that is stronger and more able to cope with financial problems."

On the orchestras cuts, Mr Singer said the BBC would still have three symphony and three light orchestras, more than any other European broadcasting

organization, employing a quarter of the country's musicians.

BBC radio paid for the orchestras, he said. "Our big brothers up the road don't wish to use them," he added. Boycott possible: The Musicians' Union intends to oppose with all its resources the dismantling of the orchestras, and one possibility under consideration will be a boycott of all BBC music by union members (our Music Reporter writes).

While the union recognizes the difficult position in which the BBC was placed, it said the proposed cuts were unacceptable.

Dr David Lumsden, principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, has launched a campaign to fight the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra closure, which he described as a "devastating blow" to the musical life of Scotland.

Details, page 4

Sharp warning to US on protectionism

From Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Paris, Feb 28

Europe today issued its toughest warning yet that Washington should drop threats of anti-dumping action against EEC steel exports to the United States.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, EEC Commissioner for Industry, launched a strong attack on America's protectionist tendencies in an outspoken and uncompromising speech to delegates attending an international symposium on the steel industry's problems.

He gave a warning that any trade war would quickly spread. "My position—and this is a warning uttered not without great foreboding—is that I must underline that if we enter into a trade war and protectionism in steel, cars will follow rapidly, and after cars it will be the shipyards and then advanced technology industries," he said.

The commissioner's comments came at a time of mounting tension between the two trading blocks and the strong possibility that American steel companies will go ahead with their anti-dumping submissions early next week. His speech preoccupied the symposium, organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which was meant to be concerned with the longer term problems of the steel industry.

Among Viscount Davignon's listeners were the heads of two of the American steel companies who have canvassed the Carter administration to take action against European steel, which they claim is flooding into the United States despite a trigger price mechanism designed to control the flow of imports.

The mechanism, due to be revised early next week, is based on production costs of Japanese steel producers, regarded as the most efficient in the world.

Continued on page 17, col 5

West Germany to increase defence spending

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 28

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, in a statement on the Afghanistan crisis, told Parliament today that West Germany would increase its defence spending by 3 per cent this year.

He indicated that West Germany would be able to achieve this target, agreed on by Nato in 1978 and long pressed for by the United States, largely by giving substantial military aid to Turkey and Greece.

Until now the Government has said it would probably be unable to increase its defence budget in 1980 by more than 2 per cent in real terms.

The Chancellor said the visit last week of Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, showed that there had been progress towards a com-

mon Western policy on Afghanistan and he was sure that further steps would be made during his visit to President Carter next week.

He said the Government would be prepared to join in a block on credit guarantees for exports to the Soviet Union if the Soviet Union took similar measures were not undermined by other countries. But he stressed that West Germany had built up a large trade with the Soviet Union for political reasons over the years and if it were broken off it would take years to reestablish.

Herr Schmidt said that West Germany would also agree to severe restrictions on the export of strategic goods to the Soviet Union. He made it clear, however, that since the West German Government, unlike others, did not give state credits for trade with the Soviet

Union, and since much of this trade was guaranteed by treaties there was little it could do in the way of sanctions.

During the debate Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor, indicated he was willing to help get the United States and the Soviet Union talking again.

Herr Brandt has recently received hints from the Soviet Union that he might use his contacts in Moscow and Washington to restore communications between the two powers, and he had discussed this with President Carter.

Herr Klaus Bölling, the government spokesman, has made it clear that there can be no question of Herr Brandt acting as a mediator. West Germany's position in the Western alliance did not suit it for such a role.

Herr Brandt told the Bundestag today: "I would not presume to act in the place of

the government... but I will work for peace till my last breath, for the sake of our people and for the sake of Europe."

He recalled that he was the president of the Socialist International which had agreed that it should do everything "to bring about a dialogue to prevent things from going kaputt. So I have a duty."

The Chancellor reiterated his belief that the two powers must get in touch again, but indirectly opposed an official Brandt mediation role by quoting an interview he gave earlier this month saying: "In order to talk the two world powers do not need the services of a Federal Republic of Germany."

Aid for Turkey, page 6
Carrington plan rebuffed, page 7

President Tito remains in a critical condition

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Feb 28

For the past week, President Tito's condition has been critical and the only question left now is how much longer his rapidly weakening body can hold out.

The bulletins, which keep up a daily flow of terse information, today merely said that his condition was unchanged and that he had spent a quiet night.

The President, whose kidneys failed two weeks ago, has since contracted more complicated ailments. His pneumonia could not be contained, and he is also suffering from lung congestion, internal haemorrhage and coronary insufficiency. In fact, all his vital organs have been affected one way or another.

King Khalid

Riyadh, Feb 28.—King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, who emerged from hospital on Monday evening feeling indisposed, is "clearly and reassuringly better," his doctors said today. Official sources said the King, aged 67, had simply been overtired.

UN assured of visit to hostages

New York, Feb 28.—The United Nations has received a written promise from Iran that the commission sent by it to Tehran to investigate complaints against the deposed Shah can see the American hostages, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Despite renewed objections from the students occupying the United States Embassy, the spokesman said there was no doubt that the meeting would be arranged.

Tehran, Feb 28.—The United Nations commission said today that it would tell the world to what "unimaginable lengths" human rights were violated under the Shah's rule.

Mr Mohamed Bedjaoui, of Algeria, the commission's chairman, made the promise in an impassioned speech to 1,500 chanting invalids of last year's revolution at a Tehran hotel.

In the strongest statement yet made by the five-man panel, he said: "The formidable power of repression reigned here for more than 25 years. You have realized an extraordinary miracle thanks to the powerful force of your spirituality and your national solidarity to reborn this power."

No more than 25 American journalists will be allowed to return to Iran under new guidelines issued by the ruling Revolutionary Council. Abolqassem Sadegh, the foreign press director, said in an interview with a newspaper published today.—Reuter.

London crime rate falls

Crime in London fell by 2 per cent last year. Robberies and burglaries dropped by 4 per cent, and commercial robberies were 20 per cent down, showing that the areas on which a large proportion of police resources were deployed had paid off. But criminal damage rose by 6 per cent and assaults including murder went up 12 per cent.

Japanese fishermen kill 800 dolphins

Japanese fishermen butchered 800 dolphins at the island of Iki. They slaughtered the mammals because they were encroaching on their fishing grounds. Protests by conservationists were brushed aside by the fishermen, who slaughtered 2,000 dolphins two years ago for feeding on the fish on which they depend for their living.

Windscale leak 'safe'

The leak of radioactive water from a silo at Windscale, found in 1976, may have started in 1972. A report says it would be dangerous and attempts to stop it would not be justified unless the leakage increases or the level of radioactivity rises.

US spouse law changed

The United States Supreme Court overturned centuries-old legislation preventing married people testifying against their spouses in future the decision on whether spouses in future will be left to the individual or not to testify will be left to the individual. The court's ruling has pleased women's rights groups.



Somewhere in Rhodesia: It was pouring with rain when Lord Somers, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, met the British bobbies maintaining law and order at a polling station during the second day of black voting. Despite the downpour, it was another heavy turnout though accusations of Coca Cola were rigged added a sour taste.

Jail inquiry ordered

Scotland Yard has been asked to investigate a clash between prison officers and prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been told that during another inquiry prima facie evidence emerged of criminal assault by officers on prisoners.

BL car sales up

BL's share of the home car market has climbed to 17 per cent for this month compared with a record low market share of 15 per cent last month. The figures confirm the impact of the Buy British campaign.

Bill 'clips M15 wings'

A private member's Bill intended to "clip the wings of M15" is not expected by its sponsor to get a second reading, but his pressure for curbs will continue.

Giant furnace at risk

Future steelmaking in the North of England was placed in jeopardy by several hours when heavy picketing by workers at the British Steel Corporation's Teesside plants prevented safety workers from tending the 100,000-ton blast-furnace at Redcar. For three or four hours only a skeleton staff was available to safeguard the furnace.

Lance trial witness

A witness has at last been called, seven weeks into the trial on banking charges of Mr Brian Lance, President Carter's former budget director. Lawyers for Mr Lance have been using their right to challenge any of the thousands of evidence documents.

French 'medicine'

Spending cuts and higher contributions have balanced the accounts of the French national health service and promise a surplus in 1981 instead of the big deficits of the past.

Milk rise call: Farmers are asking for an increase of more than 15 per cent in the price of milk for the next year.

Corrie Bill: A proposed amendment to the Abortion Amendment Bill would remove protection from doctors who carry out abortions on handicapped foetuses.

Rehabilitation: Civil rights have been restored to 677 political dissidents in South Korea.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 9; Car Buyers Guide, 23; Leap Year Lovers, 25; Personal, 23-26.

Leader, page 15

Letters: On the economy, from Mr P. W. Manton, and others; on micro-electronics, from Mr Eric Varley, MP and others.

Leading articles: Medical schools; Bogota; Ship marriages.

Features, pages 16, 14: Geoffrey Smith on why the Government should pay more attention to social policies.

Arts, page 13: Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing the week's films, finds an excess of moralizing in *The Onion Field*; William Mann and Paul Moor on operatic occasions in Cardiff and West Berlin; Welsh National's Eugene Onegin and Deutsche Oper's *Macbeth*.

Obituary, page 16: Lady Bassett, Mr Andrew Hardie, Mr J. A. R. Peabody, The Hon Michael Astor.

Sport, pages 10-12: Motor racing: Swiss driver crashes during Grand Prix practice; Racing: Win at Lingfield Park for oldest steeplechaser; Rugby Union: More changes in Scottish team; Sports Council: Chairman sees changes in South Africa.

Business News, pages 17-22: Stock Markets: Full year figures from ICI spurred equities into action but gilts were dull as trading began in the new "up". The FT index rose 8.7 to 469.1.

Financial Editor: ICI Ninian joins; Vickers sell to French; Hawker buys from Americans; Business features: David Hewson reports on the Irish ban on cigarette retail power advertising and what this could mean for Britain; Kenneth Owen on the long-life car.

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HOME NEWS

Heavy picketing puts safety of Redcar furnace in jeopardy

From Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent
Redcar

Heavy picketing by strikers at the British Steel Corporation's Redcar blast furnace has put the safety of the furnace in jeopardy. The furnace, the largest in the world, is the sole supplier of iron for steelmaking in the North-east. A BSC official said yesterday that for three or four hours only a skeleton staff was available to service the blast furnace. "It caused us some anxiety, because we need these people to safeguard the plant," he said. After hurried telephone calls, full-time union officials went to the Redcar works to speak to the pickets, with the result that some safety workers went on duty in the afternoon. The furnace is banked to maintain a temperature and will preserve its lining but a corporation official said it needs constant care and attention. Equally important, the coke ovens at Redcar, which have constantly to produce a minimum level of coke to safeguard the linings, are part of the steel complex, along with a sinter plant, or terminal, pelleting plant and other equipment which cost £400m. In South Yorkshire intensi-

fied picketing forecast by the strike committee earlier this week did not materialize. At private-sector companies, the estimated 300 police on duty easily outnumbered the pickets. There were no incidents. Mr Stanley Sheridan, the strike committee spokesman yesterday, said Mr James Brownlow, South Yorkshire's Chief Constable, who has said that existing legislation was sufficient to maintain law and order on picket lines. Mr Sheridan said that Tory critics felt that further action should have been taken during the mass picket of Hadfield's in Sheffield on February 14. "If there had been firmer action, there would have been a lot of bloodshed," he said. "The situation could have got out of control. We support the chief constable in his belief that the Prior Bill will be a waste of time and do nothing but cause conflict." Mr Sheridan said that the disturbances had taken place because outside police forces were brought in. It was likely that engineering companies in South Yorkshire, and other steel users, would be the next targets for pickets. They would aim to prevent the movement of steel. He welcomed the cooperation of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which he said had given instructions yesterday that lorry drivers in the union should not cross picket lines.

Mr McGahey leads miners in demonstration of support

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

About 100 Scottish miners led by Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish National Union of Mineworkers, marched to the gates of the steel stockholders' yard at Bellshill, near Glasgow, yesterday, pledging support for the steel strikers. They joined some 200 steel pickets and booed and shouted at lorry drivers entering and leaving the yard, where a number of pickets were arrested last week for obstruction. Two lorries were turned away at the height of the protest but a third, loaded with steel girders, forced its way slowly

through the lines of chanting pickets. Police gave a warning to picket leaders that there would be arrests if the action was repeated. Mr McGahey told the steelworkers that the miners had arrived to express solidarity with them in their battle for better wages and, looking to the future, in the battle over their jobs. The industries were interdependent, he said. "We hope to continue our support until you conclude your victory and we hope it will be a substantial one," he said. Large reinforcements of police standing by were not called out.

Union leaders meet to discuss next move

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the main union in the national steel strike are to meet this morning to discuss their next move in the wake of the Commons debate and the partial collapse of the sympathy shutdown ordered in private sector steel-making companies. In response to Mr James Callaghan's remarks about mediation in the nine week strike, officials of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation were last night privately pointing out that the union's general secretary, Mr William Sims, had gone to some lengths never to rule out third-party intervention. Arbitration has been rejected on the ground that the British Steel Corporation had put unacceptable conditions on such a move, but the Confederation might "in the right circum-

stances" put its proposals for a settlement to a disinterested forum. That prospect will be examined by the lay executive of the steel workers' union as part of the discussion on the British Steel Corporation's rejection of the confederation's blueprint for peace in the industry. The confederation leaders are unhappy that their proposition of 20 per cent rises phased over 15 months and tied to substantial productivity concessions have received such scanty attention from the management. That irritation, taken with the corporation's "ballot about a ballot" being conducted among the industry's 160,000 workforce against bitter union opposition, and the staunching of the moratorium in the private steel shutdown over the past two days, is likely to put the steel workers in a militant mood.

Sirs attack on BSC plan to find new jobs

From Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Paris, Feb 28

British Steel's efforts to help to create new jobs in areas where workers have been made redundant are being attacked by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. Mr Sims, whose members are in the third month of a national strike, presented a paper to an international symposium in Paris on the difficulties faced by the world steel industry. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development staged the event. Government officials and steel industry leaders, including British Steel Corporation executives, were told by Mr Sims that there had to be an awareness of the provision of alternative employment in areas affected by steel closures was much easier planned than carried out. He said that in spite of good intentions, only 1,850 new jobs had been created to replace more than 5,000 jobs lost in the Ebbw Vale steelworks since the early 1970s. "Only about three new jobs a week, mostly for women, have been created. At this rate it will be 1992 before every redundant steel worker in this region will be back in employment," he said. Mr Sims, with TUC support, has been urging the Government to secure more EEC aid to help redundant British steelworkers to find new jobs. He said at yesterday's meeting that if British Steel went ahead with its planned closure programme, involving the shedding of 3,000 jobs in iron and steelmaking, it would result in something closer to 100,000 lost jobs, when falling demand for coal and new capital equipment affected other sectors of industry. He urged governments to develop a comprehensive programme of special aids for assisting in the creation of new jobs, and readaptation of areas affected by steel closures. In a presentation on behalf of Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, by Mr Gordon Sambrook, the corporation's commercial managing director, the BSC defended the activities of its job creation subsidiary. The company, BSC (Industry), had increased operations two years ago and since then more than 3,500 organizations or individuals had been attracted by the facilities the company offered.

It was expected that the union would call off the private sector strike four days ago, but instead its leaders dug in their heels and voted instead to expel 600 "rebel" members at Sheerness Steel who had disobeyed the strike instruction, and to seek in a meeting with private steel company delegates today to reimpose their authority right across the industry. But although the private sector strike has practically collapsed in South Yorkshire, confederation officials say there has been a hardening of resolve among non-BSC plants in the West Midlands and South Wales, where much of the industry is concentrated. This tapering off of the shift to moderation has caused those officials who favoured abandonment of the private sector strike to think again, and the dominant feeling of the lay executive could see a reaffirmation of the shutdown outside British Steel.

Building workers' pay claim rejected as 'unrealistic'

Stephenson Feb 28
By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Building and civil engineering employers are making a concerted effort to improve productivity and reduce absenteeism rates among their employees during pay negotiations which began in earnest yesterday. That became clear as the employers rejected as "totally unrealistic" a claim which they estimated would add up to 100 per cent to labour costs. They made a 14 per cent offer, coupled with proposals for improved productivity. The Transport and General Workers' Union, one of the main unions involved in negotiations covering up to 800,000 employees, condemned the offer as "much less than our claim, not even reaching the current inflation level, trying to impose further penalty clauses and not acceptable to the union." Negotiations are to resume on March 13. There is no immediate prospect of industrial action by the building unions, although Mr Leslie Wood, general secretary of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades and Technicians, the other main union in the talks, has said that the union is in a better financial state than in recent years. Craftsmen in the industry earn a minimum of £57 a week, which the employers intend improving to £76.40 a week. But they have rejected a request for full consolidation into basic rates of an £8.40 supplement and the guaranteed minimum bonus of £7. Instead the employers have agreed to advance the basic rate and scrap the £8.40 supplement while insisting on retaining the guaranteed bonus and increasing it to £11.40 a week. The employers said that the unions' insistence on consolidation of the guaranteed bonus is inconsistent with their desire to protect their lower-paid members. Throughout a 10-page reply to the unions' claim, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors emphasize that more money may be available if improvements in attendance and productivity can be achieved. In particular the employers are seeking to change the building workers' entitlement to holiday pay if the employee is available for three days in a normal week. On that basis they would be prepared to increase holiday pay by only 2.5 per cent, but if the unions agreed to a five-day availability, holiday pay could be substantially increased.

Control on imports urged

By Our Political Staff

Import penetration has now reached such alarming proportions that it is threatening to destroy the whole of the British economy, Mr John Silkin, the former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who is now Opposition spokesman on industry, claims in an article in *Tribune* today. He says it is the Government's duty to protect Britain's industries while they are being



Mr G. A. Reed with his model of the schooner Sultana (top) and Mr J. B. Walton with the yacht Caroline, equal winners in a competition organized by the National Maritime Museum. They were at the opening of an exhibition at Greenwich, yesterday.

Transplant surgeons 'broke law'

From Our Correspondent
Leicester

Surgeons who removed a teenage girl's heart for a transplant operation broke the law, Mr Michael Chapman, the Leicester coroner, said at an inquest in Leicester yesterday on Carol Morris, aged 16. He added: "They did not have my permission." Mr Chapman had ordered an investigation by senior police officers but they failed to find sufficient evidence for a prosecution. Miss Morris, of Weir Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicester, died in hospital two days after a collision near her home between the moped she was riding and a lorry. A verdict of accidental death was recorded. Mr George Morris, her father, who is a schoolteacher, said that when he and his wife were told that their daughter was near to death they suggested to surgeons that they use any of her organs and made it clear that they could not bear her heart. Mr Morris signed a document to that effect but the coroner said: "Under the Human Tissue Act, 1961, they also need my permission, but all I was asked for was a kidney, which I granted." Mr Chapman said that in future transplant cases written permission would have to be obtained from him and pathologists. Miss Morris's heart was given to Mr Nigel Olney, aged 35, a chiropodist, in an operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge. Her kidneys were also used in transplant operations, and the coroner said that all recipients of the organs were doing well. Mr Bernard Hargrove, counsel for the surgeons, said that in future transplant cases written permission would have to be obtained from him and pathologists. Miss Morris's heart was given to Mr Nigel Olney, aged 35, a chiropodist, in an operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge. Her kidneys were also used in transplant operations, and the coroner said that all recipients of the organs were doing well. Mr Bernard Hargrove, counsel for the surgeons, said that in future transplant cases written permission would have to be obtained from him and pathologists.

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Police inquiry ordered into clash at prison

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is asking Scotland Yard to investigate a clash between prison officers and prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs prison, in London, on August 31. Mr Keith Gibson, the director for the south east region of the prison service, wrote to Mr Whitelaw earlier this week saying he was unable to make progress with his investigations into the incident as prima facie evidence had emerged of criminal assaults by officers on prisoners which should properly be investigated by the police. The Home Office said last night that prisoners' statements are being handed to the police so that they can decide what investigations to undertake. Mr Whitelaw has decided that prisoners should be able to take legal advice in connection with the incident if they wish. There were 15 officers and 54 prisoners in the trouble, which involved the intervention of MUFU teams. MUFU stands for "minimum use of force tactical intervention". Mr Whitelaw's disclosure of his decision came in a written

reply to a parliamentary question by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, who is chairman of two parliamentary bodies, the All-party Penal Affairs Group and the parliamentary Civil Liberties Group. A question had also been asked by Mr Alexander Lyon, MP for York and chairman of the Labour campaign for criminal justice. Mr Whitelaw said in his reply to Mr Kilroy-Silk that Mr Gibson would report to him on the basis of inquiries he had already made on other aspects of the incident. Mr Gibson had concluded that the deployment of MUFU teams to regain control of D wing was fully justified and that prison officers must continue to be trained and equipped to deal with acts of concerted indiscipline by inmates. Saying he fully endorsed that view, Mr Whitelaw added that he would make a further statement when he had received Mr Gibson's report. Last night Mr Kilroy-Silk said he was pleased that Mr Whitelaw had ordered a police investigation so that allegations could be thoroughly investigated and dealt with.

£40,000 van raid reward

From Our Correspondent
Reading

Three security guards were still being questioned yesterday by detectives searching for "the kidnap hoax" gang as their company, Group 4 Security, offered a £40,000 reward. The men had spent the night at the home of two boys, aged 13 and 14, who were taken away after reports that a colleague's two daughters had been kidnapped. Det Supt Len Bradley, of

Thames Valley Police, said yesterday: "The men said they were obviously very frightened but beyond that it is very difficult to explain why they did not contact the police." The guards, who had not been named last night, are aged 23, 25 and 28. Mr Bradley said that letters arrived at the homes of two of the guards on Wednesday saying that the two children of the supervisor of Group 4 Security's Mithram depot, in Surrey, were being held hostage.

Hope fades for Ulster assembly this year

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The laborious pace of the Ulster constitutional conference has virtually wiped out the Government's hopes of setting up a devolved assembly this year. Although no formal timetable exists, it was hoped that the conference could be wound up at the end of March to enable legislation to be enacted by the summer recess and an assembly established later in the year. But the rate of progress means the conference will have to meet in April, although no formal decision has yet been taken. And that will not leave sufficient parliamentary time. Mr Margaret Thatcher is getting weekly reports on the conference from Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. But the Prime Minister has not had a briefing this week because the conference resumed only on Wednesday. The official line is that the Government, in preparing its proposals for Parliament, will build on whatever level of agreement may be reached between the three participating parties. However, the participants have embarked on hard bargaining. It has essentially been a question and answer process over the respective party positions. The real bargaining will come once that has been completed. The question and answer procedure continued yesterday over the Democratic Unionist Party's submissions on what the official jargon calls the modes of operation of a future administration and the role of committees within it. Under the continuing official embargo on information the details remain a conference secret. But a source close to the party's adamant refusal to concede power sharing at executive or Cabinet level was issued publicly by party officers, giving yet more ammunition to those in Ulster who say the conference has become a charade. Cynics of the talks point to the direct conflict between the DUP's stance on power sharing and the equally rigid stand of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Indeed, the SDLP would prefer the powers of government unless the party had a share in decision making at the highest level. But the DUP officers' statement adduced 12 reasons for rejecting executive power sharing, which envisaged all parties being involved in government, which meant there could be no effective opposition: without that, parliamentary government became a laughing stock, and meaningless. Power sharing could institutionalize sectarianism in government, it asserted. It might be acceptable in Belgium, but in Northern Ireland it could not operate because one of the parties (the SDLP) did not support the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. Indeed, it added, this party was working to establish the sovereignty of a foreign state over the territory. To share power in the cabinet with such people would be a recipe for disaster and could not be contemplated by the DUP. The source continued: "Power sharing proved not to be the remedy for our troubles in 1974, despite the promises of its advocates. So it is a failed system, to which there should be no return. We are now searching for a system acceptable to the people of Northern Ireland. They have most emphatically rejected power sharing. We must never forget 1974, or the outcome of every election since then. The outcome, of course, has been a resounding victory for the Unionists of differing parties. Meanwhile, Official Unionist politicians, who are boycotting the conference are maintaining a steady flow of speeches hearing scorn on the Stormont deliberations, which at the outset they condemned as a waste of time."

should be thought no more unusual than the accepted speed of achievement at the end of secondary school", the council says. The recommendations could lead to the reintroduction of "senior" or "dividing children into different ability groups", a practice that most primary schools abandoned long ago. Commenting on the growing tendency among education authorities to monitor pupils' progress in mathematics through standardized tests at various ages, the council gives a warning against the adoption of relatively unsophisticated tests concentrating on a narrow range of content. Such tests had been known to cause distress to teachers and advisers and members of authorities to restrict their view of the mathematics curriculum to those areas that were susceptible to that type of testing, it says. It also criticizes many of the tests devised by employers for taking too restrictive a view of the curriculum and of likely future trends, such as the introduction of the microprocessor. *Schools Council Pamphlet 17: Mathematics teaching in schools* (Schools Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6LL).

Diagnostic maths tests urged for primary schools

By Our Education Correspondent

Support for the Government's as yet tentative plans to introduce testing in mathematics and English for all pupils at the age of seven or eight comes today in a Schools Council report on mathematics. The report, which contains the council's evidence to the Commons committee of inquiry into the teaching of mathematics in schools, recommends that all children in primary schools should be given diagnostic tests at an early age, possibly seven, so that those who are "at risk" mathematically might be identified. There was a need to develop suitable diagnostic activities to pinpoint the particular difficulties of individual pupils. The screening should match the practical and conversational methods of good infant schools, and should not be simply pencil-and-paper tests, the report says. The slower pupils in primary schools should be allowed to cover less of the mathematics curriculum than other children. The mathematically gifted should also be identified and given special provision. "A spread of achievement at the end of primary school

Mr Powell tells how he got Sir Harold elected

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Secret arrangements made by Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down, South, and a former Conservative Cabinet minister, to help Mr Harold Wilson and Labour into power in 1974 are disclosed by Mr Powell in the current edition of *Books and Bookmen*. Reviewing Sir Harold Wilson's latest book, *Final Form: The Labour Government 1974-79*, Mr Powell indicates that he had been in regular touch with Sir Harold during the election of February, 1974, in furtherance of his aim to get Mr Heath and the Conservatives defeated. It would now seem clear that Mr Powell had been in touch with Sir Harold before he made his famous speech on February 23, 1974, at Birmingham, indicating that people who opposed Britain's entry into the EEC should vote Labour. He is evidently annoyed to find from the book that Sir Harold does not want to know the help which he and the Ulster Unionists gave to him. Mr Powell, who denounced the February, 1974, election as "fraudulent" and refused to stand as a Conservative, goes even further. "It is doubtful if Harold Wilson would have been Prime Minister for a second time if I had not made him so," he writes. By that time, Mr Powell, who was Conservative MP for Wolverhampton, South-West, for 22 years, had been elected as an Ulster Unionist for Down, South, but he was never the leader of the Official Unionists at Westminster as that com-

ment in the review might seem to imply. He says, referring to the period after October 1974, election: "It is doubtful if a Labour Administration which had a bare overall majority or none at all would nevertheless have lasted more than five years, had it not been for the defection of two Irish republicans, if I had not, as a member of one of the crucial minority parties, believed and acted on the belief that the national interest as well as the interest of Ulster required that a Conservative government should not prematurely supersede." Mr Powell refused in the February, 1974, election to come out into the open with a direct appeal to Conservatives opposed to the EEC to vote Labour, but there was no doubting the implication of his remarks in the famous speech. He thought the Labour commitment to a fundamental renegotiation of the terms of the treaty justified such a vote. He pointed out that the commitment to renegotiation was unwritten by every section of the Labour Party, including those so widely separated politically as Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Michael Foot. Whether he was disappointed with the outcome of Labour's renegotiation he does not say in the review. But he says: "During the earlier general election of 1974 I was in regular communication with Wilson through intermediaries and he knew, and made allowance for the fact that I should endeavour before it ended to give the coup de grace to Edward Heath on the issue of EEC membership."

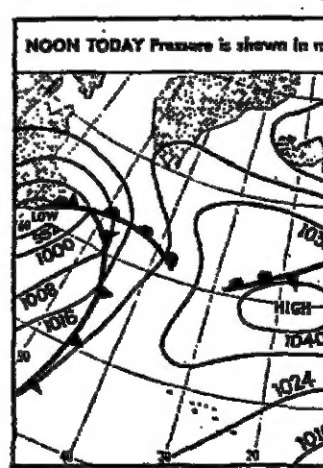
£18m sports and leisure centre
An £18m sports and leisure centre is being planned for Canterbury by Mr Lew Cartier, the former head of the Cartier supermarket chain.

Worker paid for doing nothing is awarded £618

From Our Correspondent
Wolverhampton

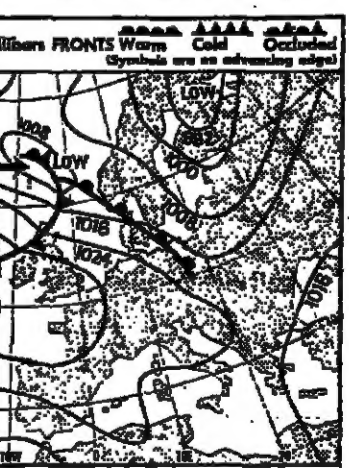
A man who claimed that for two years he had been paid for doing nothing because of a local authority's "no redundancies" agreement with the unions heard yesterday that the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London had ruled in his favour and he was entitled to be made redundant. In awarding £618.30p redundancy money to Mr Reginald Morgan, aged 59, of Fildesfield, Wolverhampton, the tribunal overturned the decisions of two Birmingham tribunals. For 10 years Mr Morgan drove a mobile library for Wolverhampton Corporation until the mobile service was withdrawn. He then sought voluntary redundancy, but the authority told him that because of agreements with the unions there were no redundancies. Mr Morgan said yesterday: "I have fought this on a point of principle. It was a great shock to have what I thought was a secure job until my retirement whiskered away from me." The authority offered him about six other jobs, but they were of a lesser kind, such as labouring or working as a dustman, and he did not want them. The council still had the no-redundancies agreement with the unions, "so I do not know where this decision leaves me. After two years they paid me £5,000 of the taxpayers' money for virtually doing nothing." "I am on the dole now and at my age I think I am likely to remain so. I feel the authority has behaved wrongly in paying me when I had nothing to do." Wolverhampton corporation said: "We still have no-redundancies agreement with the unions. This man fought to get himself made redundant. But we think his is a hybrid case. We do not think it will happen again."

Weather forecast and recordings

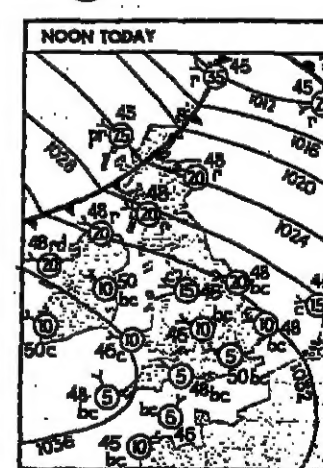


Today
Sun rises: 6.48 am
Sun sets: 5.38 pm
Moon sets: 4.21 pm
Full Moon: Tomorrow.
Lighting up: 6.39 pm to 6.16 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.57 am, 6.8m; 1.23 pm, 6.9m. Avonmouth, 6.33 am, 12.3m; 6.55 pm, 12.5m. Dover, 10.37 am, 6.6m; 10.47 pm, 6.3m. Hull, 5.32 am, 6.8m; 5.42 pm, 6.8m. Liverpool, 10.39 am, 6.7m; 10.59 pm, 6.7m. 1m=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808ft.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
Pressure remains high to the W of Britain, but a weak frontal trough will cross N areas.
London, East Angles, central S, SE England, Midlands: Rather cloudy, dry; wind W to NW, later: max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).
E, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Mostly cloudy, generally dry but



a little drizzle in places; hill fog; wind NW, moderate, locally fresh later: max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).
Channel Islands, SW England: Dry, some bright intervals; wind N or NW, light to moderate; max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).
Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Cloudy, a little drizzle in places; hill fog; wind W, light to moderate, veering NW, fresh locally: max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).
Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, hill fog, occasional drizzle or drizzle, sunny intervals and dry later; wind W, fresh, veering NW, max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Staying mostly dry with sunny intervals; some light rain from the south.
Sea passages: S North Sea: Wind NW, light or moderate; sea slight.
Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind N, light or moderate; sea slight.



Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 68 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,035.0 millibars. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$1.50; Austria Sch. on. 22.25; Belgium 36.00; Canada 30.00; France 48.00; Germany 36.00; Italy 36.00; Japan 100.00; New Zealand 22.50; Norway 36.00; Portugal 36.00; Spain 36.00; Sweden 36.00; Switzerland 36.00; Taiwan 36.00; Thailand 36.00; USA 1.00; West Germany 36.00.

هكذا من الأجل



These days, car salesmen offer you the options list the way waiters offer you the à la Carte.

Leaving you to choose the fixtures and fittings according to your pocket.

A state of affairs which we find lamentable.

Hence, the appointments, generally found on the options lists of other cars, are already present in the Royale. For example, automatic transmission is standard. (You can have manual, if you prefer, at no additional cost.)

Nor is the car required to embrace a variety of humbler engines.

Only one is offered: a 2.8 litre 6-cylinder unit that accelerates the Royale to a top speed of 115 mph*.

Inside, the furnishings are such that even the most critical of travellers will find little to carp at.

The seats are covered in crushed velour with head

restraints at the rear as well as the front.

You can even adjust the driver's seat for height, as well as for reach and rake.

Additionally the steering wheel can be tilted and the steering is powered.

Those interested in the smaller details will find

central locking for the doors, an electronic boot release, a sliding steel sunroof and radio/stereo cassette player.

While outside are double-skinned metallic paint, alloy wheels and a headlamp wash/wipe system.

In fact, the Royale's specification is so complete that the only option offered is air conditioning.

Your Vauxhall dealer will be glad to demonstrate these virtues to you.

And you'll find he hasn't the slightest inhibition about extolling the car's remarkable value.

SALON £10,100, COUPE £10,417. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDES CAR TAX & VAT. DELIVERY & NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES.

Is it vulgar to talk about value in a luxury car?

VAUXHALL
ROYALE

HOME NEWS

BBC announces cuts in education broadcasts, early closing for Radio 3 and expansion plans

By Kenneth Gossling

Five of the 11 BBC orchestras will disappear as a result of cuts of at least £130m in the corporation's spending over the next two years, 28,000 staff were told yesterday in a letter from Mr Ian Trethowan, the BBC Director-General.

The cuts, designed to bring the BBC's £400m deficit, will mean the loss of about 1,500 permanent and temporary jobs.

Educational programmes will be cut by 10 per cent, Radio 3 will close down at 11.15 pm and the 15-minute Radio 2 serial, *Waggoners' Walk*, will be dropped, at a saving of £196,000 a year.

Discussions on the cuts have begun between management and unions and the BBC hopes all consultations will be completed in a matter of weeks.

The corporation emphasised yesterday that London, not the regions, would bear the brunt of the cuts. The biggest proportionate cut, of 15 per cent, will be in the central directorates. Savings in the regions will total between 5 and 7 per cent.

The result of the consultations will be considered by the board of governors on March 6. The board is expected to say in essence that it broadly approves

the cuts but wants certain elements to be reexamined.

The BBC said yesterday that although it planned to abolish five of its orchestras, it will hope to broadcast as much music as before.

The Scottish and Northern Ireland, Northern Radio, Midlands Radio, orchestras and the London Studio Players are to be disbanded because the BBC feels that it cannot continue to support eleven orchestras. Serious music will still be broadcast, but at less cost.

Mr Trethowan said in his letter that 35 local radio stations will be built by the mid-1980s, covering 90 per cent of England. The local stations will then join up with one of the networks to form a "federal" network.

To help to finance such developments, and to contribute towards the overall economy, the BBC will be asked to save £5m in network radio, £2m on existing local stations, and the remaining English regional radio will be cut back by about £50,000.

Mr Trethowan said the savings needed are "at least" £130m, because there are pay settlements still to come. "The economies now proposed are designed to give us more room, but faced with such uncertainty about potential increases in our

costs, we cannot rule out the possibility of further economies."

About £90m will come from deferring capital projects and by dropping planned developments, including a substantial sum earmarked for equalizing conditions of service. The remaining £40m had to come from cuts in operations.

Many of the 1,500 posts that would go could be saved by abolishing some that were vacant, by early retirement or by natural wastage.

Mr Trethowan said there should be a turnover of at least 6,000 posts over the next two years.

"We cannot be sure, on the other hand, that the vacancies will occur in the right places and I cannot rule out some redundancies. How many, it is too soon to say, but we shall make every effort to keep them to a minimum."

The BBC had to provide its auditors with programmes of information, entertainment and minority interest, Mr Trethowan said. Striking a balance was not easy.

"We cannot economize without causing some pain."

The first priority was to sustain the effectiveness of BBC television against a richer competitor who in two years' time would have a second, national channel. "Thus one of the few developments we have

left in the budget will enable us to provide a new home-produced drama strand to reduce the number of American imports."

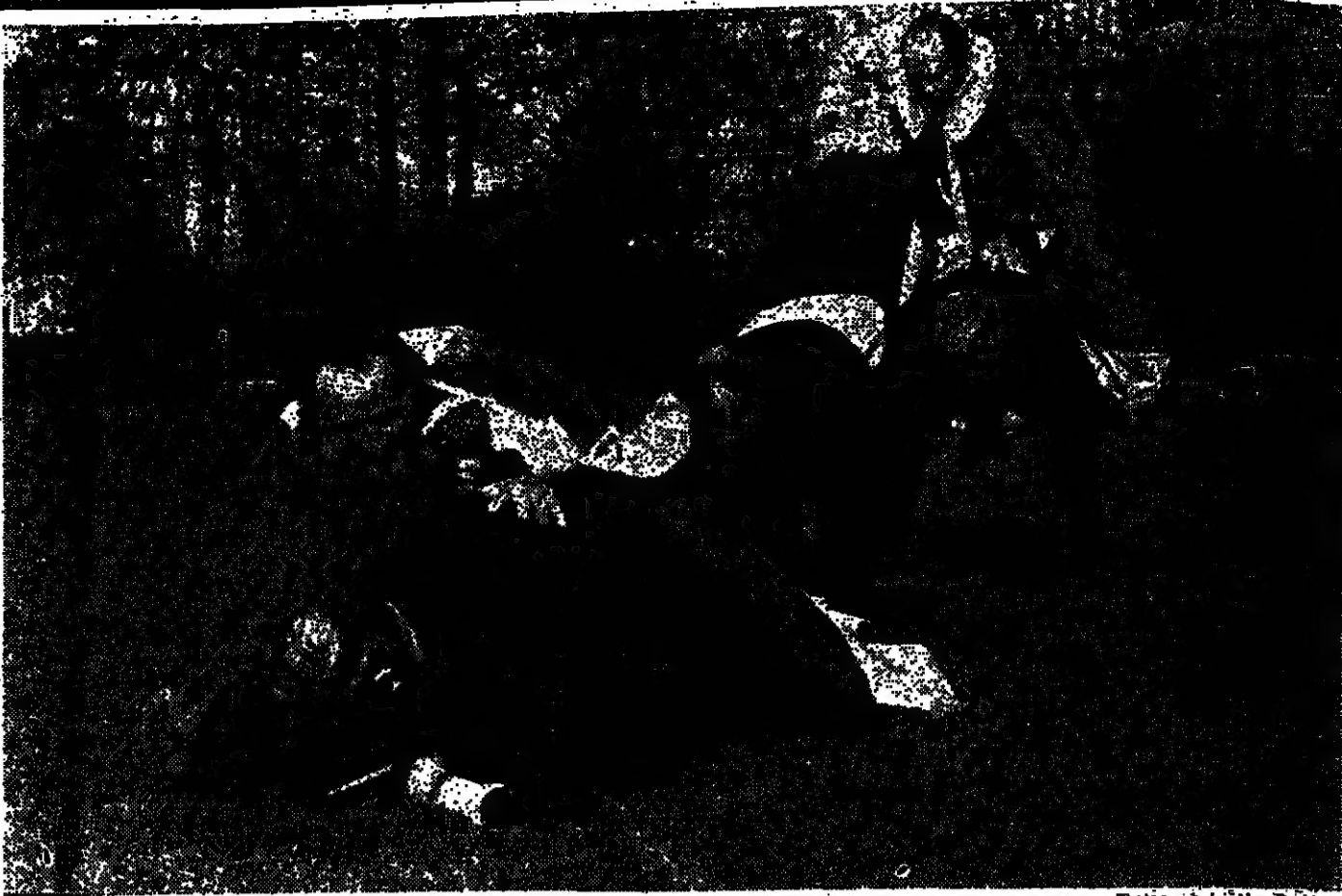
Referring to regional critics, Mr Trethowan said people could always quote examples of petty extravagance in any organisation like the BBC, but the television service was run more economically and efficiently than any other of comparable size.

"We shall be looking for a saving of about £12m, a little over 3 per cent, from the London operations and another £12.5m from the three English network production centres."

These would be some cuts in the schedules, which were yet to be worked out. News budgets would be cut by nearly £12.5m, or 3 per cent, and there would be a 10 per cent cut in education broadcasts. Savings in the national regions would be about £5.5m and in the English regions about £2.5m.

In the central directorates engineering, personnel administration and public affairs departments would have cuts of between 7.5m and £5m.

The BBC would spend £110m in the next two years, mainly on replacing worn out or obsolete equipment.



Five peers went leaping in Park Lane, London yesterday to publicize the Order of St John "leap year leapfrog" competition, by which it is hoped to raise £100,000. From the left they are: Lord Ilchester and Lord Redesdale taking a spill, Lord Marchwood and Lord Kimberley (bending) and Lord Attlee.

London crime down, but 25% of those arrested were under 16

By David Nicholson-Lord

Serious crime in London showed the first substantial fall for a decade last year, it was announced yesterday. Scotland Yard also disclosed that the strength of the Metropolitan Police was 23,900, its highest yet.

A 2 per cent reduction in indictable crimes recorded in 1979 was described by Mr Gilbert Kelland, assistant commissioner for crime, as encouraging. Particularly significant, he said, were the 4 per cent drop in both robberies and burglaries and the 20 per cent reduction in commercial robberies.

"These are the areas on which a major proportion of our crime-fighting resources have been deployed," he said.

Altogether 557,378 indictable crimes were committed in London last year, 10,000 fewer than in 1978, when the first slight fall of the 1970s was recorded. As well as in robberies and burglaries, there were reductions in rape (10 per cent), indecent assault on a woman (12 per cent), car offences (2 per cent), thefts and handling (3 per cent) and fraud (13 per cent).

Only two main categories of crime showed increases: criminal damage (5 per cent) and the including murder (12 per cent). Although most of the latter increase was taken up

by minor assaults, there were 179 homicides last year after a fall to 118 in 1978.

The average clear-up rate for all crimes was 29 per cent, a slight drop, and in burglaries it fell to 11 per cent. A quarter of all those arrested in the year were aged between 10 and 15.

Mr Kelland said the recruitment drive was pleasing. At the end of last year, after last summer's police pay rise, the force's strength was almost 600 higher than in 1978. Since then another 1,200 recruits have joined.

Of the increases in assaults and homicide, Mr Kelland said it was necessary to keep a sense of perspective. "By world standards London is still a comparatively safe and pleasant capital city in which to live, but clearly our society is becoming more violent and we must resort to physical violence."

Evidence of that comes in the 12 per cent increase in occasions on which police were issued with firearms, 6,647 last year, compared with 5,835 in 1978. The central robbery squad also saw a rise in the number of weapons from criminals in 1979, most of them semi-automatic shotguns.

To reinforce the point, a paratrooper's carbine rifle made in the United States was produced at a cost of £1,000 in the force, seized in operations the

previous day. "It makes a revolver look a little sick," Mr Kelland said.

A feature of the year, he said, was the number of binned crime-fighting operations involving central and district CID officers, the Special Patrol Group and the uniform branch.

A worrying trend of raids on building societies had emerged last year but that appeared to have been cleared up. The drive against robberies involving cash-carrying security vans had resulted in 165 arrests and a 20 per cent decrease in the amount stolen fell by 42 per cent from £2,700,000 to £1,600,000. Many of the arrests resulted from details given by informants.

Questioned about the Countryman investigation into alleged police corruption, Mr Kelland said the force was co-operating with the inquiry. "We believe that the Government should remain firm in its endeavour to ban untreated milk."

"The job of the National Farmers' Union is to protect its members, many of whom are producer-retailers of milk who obtain a premium of an extra 1p a quart for their untreated milk, which is totally unjustified."

He added that between 1963 and 1972 there were 267 outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning, of which 51 were associated with untreated milk. "There is no firm within a firm."

Clash over untreated milk sales

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers clashed with dairy-men yesterday about the future of untreated milk, which some health authorities claim causes food poisoning. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a parliamentary written reply that he hoped to announce a decision by mid-March.

Ministers are reviewing a decision by the Labour government more than a year ago to ban sales in 1983 of the milk, which is sold raw and untreated by farmers and is identified by a green label.

Mr John Ovens, director-general of the Dairy Trade Federation, said at a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture: "We believe that the Government should remain firm in its endeavour to ban untreated milk."

"The job of the National Farmers' Union is to protect its members, many of whom are producer-retailers of milk who obtain a premium of an extra 1p a quart for their untreated milk, which is totally unjustified."

He added that between 1963 and 1972 there were 267 outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning, of which 51 were associated with untreated milk. "There is no firm within a firm."

Leak of radioactive water at Windscale may have started eight years ago

By Nicholas Timmins

The leak of radioactive water from a silo at Windscale in which cladding from spent nuclear fuel is stored may have started in 1972, a report from the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday. But the leak, discovered in 1976, is at present of no danger to workers on the site or to the public, the report said.

Attempts to stop the leak, which is seeping about 100 gallons of water a day into the silo, would not be justified unless it increases or the level of radioactivity in the water rises considerably.

Nevertheless, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd has been asked by the executive to make contingency plans to seal the silo from the inside and to construct a curtain wall round the contaminated silo. Such a wall would have to be sunk 35 metres down to the bedrock and would take two years to build.

The state-owned fuel company has also been required to develop methods of emptying the silo and clearing the contaminated soil "will certainly be time consuming and costly".

It will take at least four years to develop a safe way of removing the material in the silo. Methods of disposing of it will also have to be developed, so it would be "several years after that" before the silo was emptied.

No decision has yet been taken on what to do with the contaminated soil, but its recovery would be "a formidable task". Specially designed remote-controlled excavators would be needed, with heavily shielded containers for storing the soil.

The report says that sealing the leak from the outside is considered impractical, and would expose workers to high levels of radioactivity. Sealing it from the inside might make retrieval of the waste more difficult.

Discovery of the leak, shortly before the Cabinet decided to set up the public inquiry into Windscale's expansion plans, was seen as the final factor that tipped the Labour Government in favour of the 100-day long inquiry.

Under the provisions of the Education Bill, now on its way through the House of Lords, parents of children in special schools or in need of special educational treatment are entitled to demand that their children be given special educational provision.

The Government accepts the Warnock committee's proposal that the concept of special education should be extended to include emotionally disturbed and disruptive children and those now categorized as "remedial" or "educationally subnormal" as well as those with "disabilities of mind or body".

New Welsh drive to revive issue of devolution

From Tim Jones Cardiff

A new campaign to revive the issue of devolution will be launched in Cardiff tomorrow, in which the Welsh people are asked to give them a degree of autonomy.

At the same time in Edinburgh the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly will launch its new effort, which is hoped will culminate in a home rule Bill being debated in Parliament.

The supporters of Wales for the Assembly Campaign, who are mainly Labour Party supporters, say in a policy statement that industrial and economic events have shown that Wales has paid a "terrible price" for the decision it made a year ago.

They comment: "The country has been left defenceless against a callous Conservative Government and a rising tide of catastrophe."

The organizers refer to redundancies in the steel industry and the Government's "cynical broken promises" about a Welsh language fourth television channel. Welsh interests are being brushed aside by Whitehall, they say.

"It has only taken a short 12 months to demonstrate how defenceless Wales was left by the referendum decision a year ago," their statement says.

The new campaign, which has

the backing of Mr Michael Foot, Labour's deputy leader, seeks to establish an assembly with full economic and legislative powers.

Its policy statement says: "In a Welsh referendum, issues like excessive cuts in the Welsh steel industry relative to other areas and the damaging effects of coal imports would be fully aired."

What the crisis has demonstrated is the weakness of the 36 Welsh MPs at Westminster swamped by the Government's large majority.

The campaign seeks an immediate referendum on the issue and claims the outcome would be radically different from that of a year ago.

In Scotland, Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Ayrshire, South, has predicted that the new campaign will reawaken the desire of Scots for a measure of self-government. "I am pretty sure we will see the beginning of a phoenix rising from the ashes," he said.

Although it lent its support to the previous Welsh assembly campaign, Plaid Cymru is likely to stay clear of this latest exercise.

Mr Dafydd Williams, the party's general secretary, said the issue was not even on the agenda for the next meeting of his executive. "I feel that most of our members consider that only full self-government is sufficient to tackle the massive economic and social problems of Wales."

Long Rotherham school staffing dispute ended

By Our Education Correspondent

The 18-month dispute over staffing standards in Rotherham schools has ended. The National Union of Teachers announced yesterday that it had agreed to call off its action in view of Rotherham council's decision to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools from 24:1 to 23:1 by next January.

The NUT has been refusing to accept a series of offers of 30 pupils, or to take the classes of absent colleagues, that not only caused severe disruption, but also led two secondary school headmasters to close their schools just before last half-term, and provided that they were unmanageable.

Rotherham had originally planned to reduce its total teaching force from 1,178 to 1,133 this year. It will now cut only six teachers, with a review of the 38 other teaching jobs will cost the Rotherham rate payers about £175,000 a year.

Chef fined £1,000 for road deaths

James Gaffney, aged 23, a chef, of Paterson Street, Motherwell, Lanarkshire, admitted causing the deaths of three people in a road accident near Oban, Argyll, last year by reckless driving was fined £1,000 at Oban Sheriff Court yesterday.

He was also disqualified from driving for four years and fined a further £50 and banned for three months for driving without insurance. Sheriff Peter Hamilton said: "You will pay the fines at £10 a week, with alternative of 12 months' imprisonment."

Barlow call for report on 'dirty books'

By Kenneth Owen

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office, yesterday called for a report on the provision of a "buyer's guide" to dirty books, among the pages available to subscribers to the corporation's Prestel videotext service.

Details of the pages, which are provided by Mills & Allen Communications, London, were disclosed in *The Times* on Wednesday. They give a brief guide to "early mess, specialist magazines and erotica" and a list of five porno bookshops.

Sir William said: "I am disappointed that an information provider has used Post Office Prestel facilities to display material which could be offensive to many of our subscribers."

Mr Richard Hooper, managing director of Mills & Allen Communications, leaves his job today to move to the Post Office, where he will succeed Dr Angus Reid as director of Prestel on April 1.

The Association of Videodata Information Providers, whose members represent the 136 organizations which provide pages of information for Prestel, said a council meeting yesterday to publish a voluntary code of practice.

Mr Paul McFarland, videodata editor at Mills & Allen Communications, said yesterday: "As far as I can see, the material is not indecent or obscene, and would not come under the terms of an obscene display."

He added: "If the Post Office or the AVIP asked us to delete information we would discuss that request."

New Bill on education of handicapped children

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

The Government is to introduce a Bill to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Warnock report on the education of handicapped children, and to give parents of such children the same rights as other parents on the choice of school and appeal against allocation.

As reported today in *The Times*, the Education Bill, introduced by Mr Mark Carless, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is expected to make a brief statement in the Commons early next week, welcoming the approach of the Warnock committee towards the education of the handicapped and announcing the Government's decision to introduce a short Bill in the next parliamentary session.

Under the provisions of the Education Bill, now on its way through the House of Lords, parents of children in special schools or in need of special educational treatment are entitled to demand that their children be given special educational provision.

The Government accepts the Warnock committee's proposal that the concept of special education should be extended to include emotionally disturbed and disruptive children and those now categorized as "remedial" or "educationally subnormal" as well as those with "disabilities of mind or body".

Son worked for 31 years without wages, court told

From Our Correspondent Cambridge

A son who worked on his father's farm for 31 years without wages, the court told yesterday, was entitled to a sum of £15,000 to which he was entitled to add the first time he went to work when he was 22 and my mother gave me half a crown."

He considered leaving several times but his father told him he would forfeit his right to the farm if he did.

Mr Ronald Walker, for Mr Coe, said: "A plain case is that he devoted a substantial part of his life to working on this land on the basis of promises that the land would pass to him. He left school at 14 and from then till his father's death in 1973 he worked without wages."

The hearing continues today.

Raiders rob postman

Two raiders armed with pickaxe handles robbed a Post Office employee of £22,000 in cash and £4,800 in securities being delivered at Bootle, in north Merseyside, yesterday. The postman was slightly hurt in the struggle.

Train hits buffers

Eighteen people were taken to hospital after a train ran into buffers at Newcastle upon Tyne Central station yesterday. Injuries in most cases were minor.

Farmers calling for price increase of more than 15% on milk for bottling

By Hugh Clayton Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers need a price increase of more than 15 per cent on milk in the year starting on April 1, leaders of the National Farmers' Union said yesterday. Mr Richard Butler, president of the NFU of England and Wales, said that increases were necessary on milk for bottling and for dairy produce manufacture.

The rise needed on the price paid to farmers for milk would be between 15 and 20 per cent. "I think it will be nearer the lower end of the bracket."

He agreed that if farmers would such a rise the Government would have to increase the price of bottled milk. The last rise on bottled milk was allowed by ministers less than a fortnight ago.

Mr Butler was speaking after facing a media question at a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture. He said there that farmers were

worried about the size of profits made by dairies on bottled milk and by the way the profits were calculated.

Quite a proportion of the increase in retail prices in recent months has gone to the distributor and not to the producer. We have been concerned that the distributors have a system whereby they get cost plus a certain profit."

The method of calculating the profit was a secret between dairymen and the Government, he said. "It has been kept pretty close to the Ministry of Agriculture's chest."

There was a sharp exchange of views when Mr Butler was asked by Mr Butler to state what size and what kind of price rise farmers wanted on milk. He claimed that Mr Butler had suggested earlier that more than a 15 per cent would be needed.

Mr Butler recalled that he had referred to a rise of be-

tween 15 and 20 per cent. "I do not think it has got to be 18 per cent plus," he said.

"You said there has been an 18 per cent increase in costs to your producers," Mr Hughes interjected.

"I am sorry, sir," Mr Butler said. "I will not be tied to a figure."

Mr Hughes then said: "We will have to check the records."

Mr Butler insisted that dairy farmers needed price rises and policy changes if they were to continue to meet national demand for milk.

European Economic Community payments to farmers for not selling milk from their dairy herds should be raised by half to persuade producers to leave the industry. The union believed that to be a more just solution to the dairy surplus than a freeze on prices.

"We say that if you remove a cow you no longer have to deal with the surplus that the cow produces," Mr Butler said.

Judgment deferred on Ladbroke's plea

Judgment was reserved by the High Court yesterday on Ladbroke's appeal against the refusal of Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, last December to renew gaming licences for three West End clubs.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr Justice Marks-Jones, said: "We shall take a little time to consider our judgment."

Two companies, Ladbroke Ltd and Hyde Park Casinos Ltd, had lost their licences for the Ladbroke Club, the Hertford Club and the Park Lane Casino because of misconduct. Their renewal application was opposed by the police, the Gaming Board and the Playboy Club.

The Ladbroke companies argued that the Crown Court judge's decision refusing to renew the licences did not, in law, constitute a judicial order which could be reviewed by the High Court.

Alternatively, Mr Stuckey said, if the transcript of the judge's remarks constituted an order, it contained no clear error of law justifying the Crown Court's interference. It was clear from what the judge said that the re-structuring of the two companies had been considered by the Crown Court.

Mother dead, two daughters saved

Mr Philip Jarvis, of Bryn-mear Road, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, aged eight and ten, but was unable to save his wife in a fire at their terrace home yesterday.

Four firemen were injured as they searched the burning house for Mrs Lorraine Jarvis, aged 31.

Former soldier dies of 1944 war wounds

From Our Correspondent Birmingham

Mr Richard Whittington, the Birmingham Coroner, yesterday recorded a verdict of death by war wounds on Mr Robert Edward Crowe, aged 54, of Birmingham, who died in hospital this morning.

Mr Crowe was serving with the Black Watch in northern France in 1944 when he was hit in the spine by shrapnel fragments, his brother, Mr Stanley Crowe, told the inquest.

Dr E. L. Jones, a consultant pathologist, said Mr Crowe died of a paralysed intestine caused by the injury.

CORRECTION

LAMCO PAPER SALES LIMITED

In the Special Report on Finland published on Wednesday, February 27th, the advertisement for the above company should have read:

LAMCO PAPER SALES LIMITED
Representing the 26 member mills of
THE FINNISH PAPER MILLS' ASSOCIATION
Supplying one third of UK imports of paper—newsprint, magazine papers, fine papers, wrappings and specialties.

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HOME NEWS

Bill to 'clip wings of MI5' likely to be killed but sponsor seeks new controls on service

By Peter Hennessy
A private member's Bill intended to "clip the wings of MI5" in the words of its sponsor, Mr. Robin Cook, Labour MP for Edinburgh, Central, was introduced yesterday. It is only the second attempt in almost 20 years to make the Security Service accountable to Parliament.

Mr. Cook's Security Service Bill, which reaches its second reading stage today, would restrict the activities of MI5 to counter foreign espionage inside the United Kingdom and the detection and prevention of subversion and terrorism.

The Director-General of MI5 would be required to present an annual report to Parliament regarding the number of staff employed by his department, its budget, the number of files on individuals held in its custody and the number of applications for permission to institute telephone taps, install electronic "bugs" and intercept mail.

For the first time MI5 would need to seek permission for "bugging" for the purpose of intercepting telephone conversations, now a matter for the Home Secretary, with authorization of mail interception, would be given to a High Court judge.

Mr. Cook expects the Government to kill the Bill today by the simple expedient of instructing a whip to shout "object!" once Mr. Cook has moved it.

"But we are putting it forward to provide a focus for debate on how the Security Service can be brought under control," he explained.

The Bill has all-party support. Its sponsors include a single Conservative MP, Mr. Jonathan Aitken, two Liberals, Mr. Alan Smith and Mr. Clement Freud, including Mr. James Wellbeloved, Under Secretary of State for the Royal Air Force in Mr. James Callaghan's Administration.

Mr. Cook pointed out that the Civil List and Secret Service Act, 1972, limited the cost of secret service activities to the United Kingdom to £10,000 in any one year. MI5, therefore, had been behaving illegally for 18 years, from its foundation in 1909 until 1972, when the 1972 statute was repealed. Its annual budgets were certainly in excess of that sum.

Mr. Cook's Bill would provide a legal basis for the existence of MI5 as well as restricting its scope. In addition to its annual report to Parliament, further scrutiny would be imposed by a quinquennial review of personal files held

by the Security Service, undertaken by a High Court judge to ensure that information gathered was restricted to those investigations permitted by the Bill.

The Home Secretary, the minister responsible for MI5, would also be required to appoint a privacy adviser to safeguard the interests of those on whom files were kept.

"MI5 spy on foreign agents, who are fair game, but the bulk of their files are on British citizens," Mr. Cook explained.

In preparing his Bill Mr. Cook was assisted by the Outer Circle Policy Unit, a small "think tank" funded by the Rowntree Trust. It was drafted by Andrew Nichol, a lecturer in law at the London School of Economics.

Mr. Cook hopes that the work of the Labour Party's national executive committee's security services study group will succeed in placing a commitment to a security service Bill in the election manifesto of a future Labour government.

In the meantime, he will press the Prime Minister to authorize an official inquiry into the work of MI5, especially its electronic surveillance activities, whose potential scope has advanced substantially with the development of new technology.

It was in that area that Mrs. Chalker conceded that an amendment might be made at the report stage. She promised to consider the issue and accepted that "there may be a case to confirm in the statute the wide-ranging role we expect the committee to take".

But the wording of the opposition amendment, which proposed that the committee "shall be free to consider at any time such questions... as they think fit", was not quite appropriate.

Mrs. Chalker pointed out that the committee had never had statutory backing for the broader role it had undertaken under the chairmanship of Professor Donnison. The Government's view was that it would be up to the committee to decide what it would do, and she saw no reason why it should not be able to publish reports or have access to ministers and officials in the same way as the commission.

New social security advisory body may be empowered to act without minister

By Pat Healey
Social Security Correspondent
The Government indicated yesterday that it may be prepared to amend the Social Security Bill at the report stage to give the new Social Security Advisory Commission the freedom to pursue issues without waiting for a request from the secretary of state.

The concession was made by Mrs. Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, during the committee stage of the Bill yesterday.

Labour MPs pressed a series of amendments designed to give the new committee the kind of freedom and independence enjoyed by the Supplementary Benefits Commission, which the new committee will replace.

The amendments, which were defeated, were designed to give the new committee independence to investigate issues and publish reports without resort to the secretary of state, and to

have a statutory right of access to ministers and officials at all levels.

The commission's view of what the new body should do has been set out in a letter from the chairman, Professor David Donnison, to Mr. Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport North, after a meeting with opposition members of the committee.

Professor Donnison said that the new committee should be drawn from a variety of fields, broadly representative of relevant interests in the community, but outside bodies should not be allowed to "nominate their own placemen".

It should "explicitly be given freedom to investigate any area which it considers to be relevant to its responsibilities. This independence should incorporate the freedom to initiate inquiries entirely of the committee's own, and without need for a reference from the secretary of state."

Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been assured by Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the tote, that he altered only one dividend at the Royal Ascot horse race meeting in 1976.

That is stated in a letter by Mr. Whitelaw to Mr. John Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, who wrote to the Home Secretary asking for an inquiry into persistent rumours that the dividends were altered on Mr. Wyatt's instructions.

Mr. Golding, a member of the Commons Select Committee that inquired into the tote, and present chairman of the Commons Home Affairs Committee, made it clear in his letter to Mr. Whitelaw that he accepted that Mr. Wyatt had authority to alter the dividends.

Mr. Whitelaw said Mr. Wyatt asked to be informed of all the tote dividends on the Wednesday and Thursday of the Royal Ascot meeting in 1976 before they were announced because he had only recently taken over as chairman and wished to be fully in touch with tote arrangements.

Mr. Whitelaw conceded that this fact may have led to rumours that Mr. Wyatt altered a number of dividends.

But he says, Mr. Wyatt had assured him that the only alteration he made was to raise the dividend on the fourth race on June 17 after the withdrawal of the favourite and the need to repay punters who had backed it.

Mr. Wyatt had obtained a statement from tote employees concerned at the time to the effect that no other dividend was altered. "In the circumstances, I see no grounds for instituting an inquiry into this matter," Mr. Whitelaw says.

Mr. Golding said yesterday that he hoped the categorical statement by the Home Secretary would end the rumours.

Protest over courts on Sundays

The Bail (Scotland) Act, which enables sheriffs and district courts in Scotland to sit on Sundays, drew protests yesterday.

"This is an intrusion on the Christian Liberty of people who regard Sunday as the Lord's day," Mr. Clement Graham, clerk to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, said. "We have heard nothing about this move until now."

The Act received the Royal Assent on January 31. It will come into effect by the end of March.

"I'm sure this news will provide a violent reaction from members of my society," Mr. John McBride, Scottish organising secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, said. "We will do all in our power to ensure this measure is not used."

The Scottish Office said it could find no record of any representation by any church while the Bill was going through Parliament, but Sunday sittings were expected to be rare.

The public questions committee of the Free Church of Scotland will meet on Tuesday to discuss the Act.

Tote chief's assurance on Royal Ascot dividends

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Minsk link cut

The Labour-controlled Nottingham City Council yesterday decided to cut links with its twin city of Minsk as a protest against Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

The council decided to sever ties with the city of Minsk, which has been a twin city of Nottingham since 1964.

The council's decision was made at a meeting held on Wednesday night.

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Amendment to Corrie Bill appals opponents

By Annabel Ferriman
The opponents of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill are determined to defeat it in Parliament today because the amended Bill will not allow for the abortion of a handicapped foetus.

Mr. John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute, sponsor of the Bill, has tabled an amendment deleting almost everything from the Bill after Clause 1(3)(b).

The section giving immunity to doctors who perform abortions to save a mother's life between 24 and 28 weeks of pregnancy, as they are now.

The other clauses which will disappear are those breaking the financial links between counselling agencies and abortion, and the one strengthening the doctors' nurses' right not to take part in abortion operations.

All that will remain are the sections referring to the upper time limit, which has been amended to 24 weeks from 20 weeks in the original Bill, and the section relating to the criteria for abortion.

The latter section was being discussed when the debate was adjourned on February 15. The Bill sought to tighten the criteria, making it harder for women to obtain abortions, but there was a batch of amendments aimed at reversing its effects.

The debate on the criteria is expected to last about half an hour this morning, which would be the last time the Bill will be discussed before it is passed today.

A shortened, one-clause Bill, reducing the upper time limit for abortion from 28 weeks to 24 weeks and strengthening the criteria, is thought to have a greater chance of success than his original Bill.

The Coordinating Committee in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act said yesterday: "We are absolutely appalled at the way Mr. Corrie has done a hatchet job simply to get it through, without taking into consideration the things that the amendment would leave out."

The parliamentary opponents of the Bill are tabled an amendment which will also remove all the clauses after Clause 1 but would put in a new, strengthened Clause 2, allowing abortions up to 28 weeks for women carrying handicapped foetuses or to save the mother's life.

The British Medical Association, which has strenuously opposed the Bill, said yesterday: "The BMA is appalled at the drastic implications of this amendment, which goes far beyond the original intention of the Corrie Bill."

"The Bill as it now stands would mean that a doctor could go to prison for ending the pregnancy of any woman known to be carrying an abnormal baby."

Maximum fine of £1,060 on farmer

A farmer who was said to have left sheep and cattle to die without food or veterinary care, was fined the maximum of £1,060 at Airdrie Sheriff Court, Strathclyde, yesterday.

Robert Roederer, aged 47, of Upper Farm, Longriggend, was found guilty of causing sheep and cattle unnecessary suffering by failing to provide shelter, care, supervision, nourishment and veterinary treatment, and also failing to bury carcasses.

On April 3, 1969, the taxpayers sold their shares in ABCFS to Excilbur for £47,000, payable in 10.25 per cent annual instalments of £4,698, and a final instalment of £44,302 payable in 1970 with interest running at 10.25 per cent.

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British help for Mark Thatcher

Mr. Mark Thatcher, son of the Prime Minister, yesterday referred to the controversy over an earlier suggestion of sponsorship from a Japanese company and Mr. Paul Raymond, the club owner, was speaking at Brands Hatch after launching a £40,000 programme for him to race in cars sponsored only by British companies.

He said that he had discussed his scheme with his mother and there was no acronym.

Brands Hatch is providing cars for him to race this season, while four companies, a Yorkshire wool firm, an Essex trailer company, Talbot Cars, and Kelly Gil, the jobs agency, will provide the finance.

Law Report February 28 1980

Right of minority to sue on behalf of company

Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Newman Industries Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment delivered February 18 and 19]

The Lordship held that Prudential Assurance Co Ltd, as a minority shareholder in Newman Industries Ltd, was entitled to an exception to the rule in *Foss v Harbottle*, to sue for compensation on behalf of the company.

The Lordship found that the directors of TPG assets and liabilities for the board to consider; that by means of a resolution passed by the board, the directors, but he was in effect removed as a director after a meeting on February 1976.

Ordinarily, Prudential sought declarations that the circular was misleading and untrue; that the directors' conduct was in breach of their duties; and that the directors' conduct was in breach of their duties.

Mr. Caplan, relying on *McConnell v Wright* (1903) 1 Ch 546, contended that the directors' conduct was in breach of their duties.

The action was brought by Prudential Assurance Co Ltd, the two directors, Mr. Alan Frank Bartlett and Mr. John Knox Laughton, and James Poole and William TPG.

Mr. Leonard Caplan, QC, Mr. Peter Curry, QC, Mr. Philip Heslop, QC, Mr. John Edwards-Jones, QC, and Mr. Robert Reid for Newman; Mr. Richard Scott, QC, Mr. Alan Bartlett, QC, Mr. John Knox Laughton, QC, Mr. Charles Turnbull for TPG.

By an agreement of June 3, 1975, Newman agreed to purchase all TPG assets except its shareholding in Newman and a debt of £100,000 owed by Stroudpoint to TPG, in consideration for Newman assuming all TPG's liabilities, amounting to £1,117,000, and a payment of £235,000 in cash.

The agreement was made between Newman and TPG, and was signed by the directors of both companies.

In a lengthy and detailed review of the evidence, the Lordship found that the directors of Newman had acted in breach of their duties.

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cash flow and were therefore unlikely to be paid, as was brought to the attention of the directors of Newman; that they were deliberately concealed from other members of the Newman board; that they prepared a strategy document advocating the takeover of TPG assets and liabilities for the board to consider; that by means of a resolution passed by the board, the directors, but he was in effect removed as a director after a meeting on February 1976.

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to dislodge the direct claim altogether because there might be a possibility, however remote, that the majority of Newman shareholders might resolve not to take advantage of the judgment in the company's favour. So there should be no further proceedings in the direct or representative claims without the leave of the court, but countervailing was to address the court further on that matter.

TPG, it was conceded, must be taken as having actual knowledge of the fraud practised upon Newman, which knowledge was to be imputed to TPG because its chief executive, Mr. Laughton, had taken part in a fraud designed to benefit Newman. Newman's expenses and therefore TPG was prima facie liable to make good any loss suffered by Newman. The usual remedy was to seek declarations that the property transfers purported to be made by Newman were void and the agreement never became unconditional so that the agreement of June 3, 1975, were void, and that the transaction be unassailable.

But his Lordship saw no reason why, given that the resolution was void and the agreement never became unconditional so that the agreement of June 3, 1975, were void, and that the transaction be unassailable.

Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Laughton together had pursued a plan designed to benefit Newman at Newman's expense, a plan which included deception of the Newman board and shareholders as to their true motives and the market value of the assets acquired. His Lordship reached that conclusion with regret; and motives which inspired to order the recovery of property or damages in favour of the defendant company against a co-defendant, the jurisdiction could not be invoked by a minority shareholder. The question was only whether the jurisdiction was properly invoked by the minority shareholder, further reinforced by *Burrows v Becker* (1967) 63 DLR 100.

The words of Sir George Jessel in *Foss v Harbottle* indicated that the jurisdiction could not be invoked only where the wrongdoers were a majority but where it could be shown that the minority in justice would be defeated, in that the minority would be pursued on behalf of the company could not be pursued.

Given that the Newman board were deceived, there was no real question as to whether the company should commence proceedings would ever have been put to the shareholders in a way which would enable them to exercise a proper judgment on whether it was in the company's interests that litigation should be commenced. The shareholders would inevitably look to the directors for guidance. Prudential had shown, in the special circumstances of this case, that the interests of justice did require that a minority action should be permitted.

Prudential had said that if it succeeded in the derivative action it would not wish to persist in a direct claim, whether personal or representative.

It would be wrong, however,

'Pantomime' tax avoidance scheme valid

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Garvin and Another
Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Donaldson
[Judgment delivered February 27]

The court considered a tax avoidance scheme designed by Mr. Godfrey Bradman and sold to shareholders in property companies. The scheme involved the use of "tax advantages" on those shareholders but nevertheless succeeded in securing a substantial profit for the company.

The court considered a tax avoidance scheme designed by Mr. Godfrey Bradman and sold to shareholders in property companies. The scheme involved the use of "tax advantages" on those shareholders but nevertheless succeeded in securing a substantial profit for the company.

ceives, in consequence of a transaction whereby any other person (a) subsequently receives, or has received an abnormal amount by way of dividend, or a consideration which either (i) is, or represents the value of, assets which are... available for distribution to shareholders, or (ii) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (iii) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (iv) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (v) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (vi) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (vii) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (viii) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (ix) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (x) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (xi) is, or represents the value of trading assets of the company, or (xii) is, or 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WEST EUROPE

M Barre wins vote on censure motions

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 28

The Socialist and Communist motions of censure on the general policy of the Government were predictably rejected in the National Assembly last night. They received 199 votes in both cases, far short of the 245 required to secure their adoption. The vote came at the close of a debate in which the members of the government majority parties refused to take part.

The Assembly has nothing left on its agenda for the rest of the extraordinary session which was called to enable the Senate to vote on the Agricultural reorientation Bill which the Lower House adopted on December 12.

Mr Raymond Barre stuck to his economic guns with a characteristic assurance unshaken even by the exceptionally high price index rise for January of 1980.

The Opposition painted a catastrophic picture of the situation, but the Government's position remained unchanged.

Both the Prime Minister and the National Institute for Statistics agree that the impact of the latest oil price increases has to be made fully felt on the French economy. The national minimum wage is expected to rise by 3.4 per cent from Saturday to 13.37 francs an hour, or 2,326 francs a month, for a 40-hour week. It was raised by 4.1 per cent only last December.

The Government yesterday implicitly acknowledged that the rise in prices had an impact on purchasing power by deciding to increase the salaries of government officials by 2.5 per cent from the same date.

The reality of the economic crisis is the subject of a debate in the Assembly today and is beginning to dawn on public opinion, in spite of M Barre's contention that France was the only country in the West where the purchasing power of wage earners last year had not declined but had been improved.

The crisis is a favourite stick with which the Opposition tries to beat the Government, which, as M Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, claimed yesterday, had nothing to say in reply to the charge that it was the fault of "oil and fatality".

M Gaston Defferre, the chairman of the Socialist parliamentary group, asserted last night that "the flare up in gold and property prices is one of the many signs of Frenchmen's distrust towards the currency and the Government".

But the fact is that the franc has not been in better shape for a long time, and abroad M Barre's reputation as an economist has never been higher, as recent articles in the American press demonstrate. His policy is even recommended as a pattern for the United States to follow. It is certain that if he were to leave office, confidence in the franc would collapse.

Yesterday's debate was dominated by economic matters. But policies were not completely absent. Both M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, and M Mitterrand used the occasion to pursue the controversy between their two parties which has grown in violence and intensity in the past few months.

M Marchais underlined the Communists' determination to obtain in a left-wing government the place which they considered to be theirs by right. This was a reply to recent suggestions by M Mitterrand and M Michel Rocard, his challenger within the Socialist Party, that their party should cooperate, a minority Socialist government might be the only answer if the left won the presidential election in 1981. The prospect, however, seemed more remote than ever barring the kind of economic catastrophe which the left has been predicting ever since M Barre came to power three and a half years ago.

M Mitterrand, for his part, insisted that the Communists by their conversion to a hard line were the objective allies of President Giscard d'Estaing.

While the West debates its response to Soviet intervention Bonn gives aid to Nato's weak link

Rescue operation to save Turkey

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 28

While the West still debates its response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, West Germany is already working on its main contribution — massive financial and military aid to strengthen the most vulnerable Nato partner, Turkey.

Herr Hans-Martin Genscher, the Finance Minister, is organizing a huge international financial rescue operation for the bankrupt Turkish economy, with West Germany raising the lion's share. Bonn is expected to provide weapons, in particular modern German-built tanks, and other material for the badly equipped Turkish Army.

With this help for their long-time friends the Germans are pushing into practice their principle of division of labour in the Western reaction to Afghanistan. Unenthusiastic about punitive measures such as sanctions, they believe each country should play a role in dealing with the crisis. It is not, they believe, a matter of life and death for the Soviet Union. In particular they do not want to endanger

the achievements of their détente policy.

To critics in the foreign news press, that the German attitude is feeble, officials retort that when it comes to signing cheques their contribution to the West's response will probably cost much more than anyone else's.

How much this will be has not yet been decided. But since the Turks feel they need some \$1,500m (£650m) just to get the economy moving again, it is much more in medium-term aid, and since government sources here expect West Germany to shoulder even more than the 40 per cent it contributed to the last rescue operation, the sum will clearly be enormous.

The key element in Herr Genscher's efforts is speed. If the aid is to be effective it must be available at once. The Turks need ready money, in particular to buy oil to get their factories going again. At present the Turkish industry is working at only about one-third of its capacity.

The Germans also believe that the first aid will be of little

lasting use if it is not followed up by medium-term help over the next few years.

Herr Genscher is also seeking means of helping Turkey to postpone paying foreign debts and to prolong credits from private banks.

He expects to raise the money from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, private banks, the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and other governments, including Saudi Arabia.

The Germans conclude that Turkey, though not under normal circumstances, but the Afghanistan crisis has made its plight particularly serious and urgent for the rest of the Western alliance. They fear severe inflation will bring political and social instability.

Turkey's strategic position on NATO's south-west flank near the Arab-made insecure by the Afghan invasion, and its vulnerability to Islamic religious unrest, make it essential that the country is put back on a sound economic basis and securely linked to the West.

Nazi victims still claim from fund

By Arthur Osman

The West German Embassy in London is still receiving one or two compensation claims a month from British victims of Nazi persecution who missed applying to a fund that closed 14 years ago.

An official said that any such claim would be sent to Bonn for consideration but said it was impossible to indicate how it would be received.

In 1964 the West German Government made a fund of 100 million marks available for the distribution of the British Government to victims of Nazi persecution. It closed in 1966 having used up its money. Since 1971, the Bonn Government has not accepted new claims.

Mrs J. Fisher, aged 48, of Moseley, Birmingham, was advised yesterday to write a claim. She said that she, like many others, had not known of the 1964 fund. She learned about it two years ago.

Mrs Fisher, whose family was Jewish, was aged 12 when she was taken from Budapest with her mother, who was later killed. She believes that her father, who had been taken earlier for forced labour, died in a gas chamber.

Mrs Fisher was held in Auschwitz and Mauthausen concentration camps until released by the Americans in 1945. She was returned to Hungary as an orphan, spent long spells in hospital and escaped after the 1956 uprising.

The official of the Jewish Refugee Committee in London said: "Unfortunately Mrs Fisher did not keep in touch with us when we circulated news of the fund. She would have been entitled to compensation."

Dr F. E. Gumpert of the United Restitution Office in London which has specialized in German compensation for more than 30 years, said: "Hundreds were too late in applying for compensation. The beginning of the time limit was missed. The West German Government is however setting up a new fund, reportedly of 440m marks (£110m) for late claimants."

New Menten trial to begin on May 13

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Feb 28

A Rotterdam court today set May 13 for the beginning of a new trial of Mr Pieter Menten, aged 80, the millionaire and art collector accused of being involved in the mass execution of Jews during the wartime German occupation of Poland.

The court rejected an application on behalf of Mr Menten for a postponement of the trial to allow a further investigation into his mental faculties.

On February 5 the Supreme Court quashed an earlier ruling by the Rotterdam court that Mr Menten was insane.

The court now ruled that there were insufficient grounds to conclude that Mr Menten was insane within the terms defined in the Supreme Court ruling.

France puts life back into health system

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 28

The French national health system is responding to the drastic recovery programme started last July by M Jacques Barrot, the Minister of Health. It involved both cuts in expenditure and an increase in contributions.

But it was not yet time for celebrations, the minister said: "The effort to put the accounts right must be pursued. Yet the improvement is undeniable. Instead of a deficit of about £2,450m, the health system shows a broad balance of accounts for 1979 and, if the trend continues, will record a surplus for 1981."

The increase in contributions by one percentage point and the weather both played a part. A mild winter seemed to preclude any widespread epidemic of influenza.

But there was also no question of extending the increase in health contributions to January, 1981. But there was also no question, in spite of the improvement in social security finances, of going back on the decision taken last July to make the great majority of French people more responsible, by compelling them to meet 5 to 6 per cent of all health charges, out of their own pockets.

The exception is hospital charges which will continue to be fully refunded. He announced two further measures: the creation in each hospital of a medical committee to assess treatment with a view to ensuring more efficient management and increasing control of expenditure.

M Barrot refused to comment on the current negotiations between the managers of the different national health funds and the representatives of medical unions on a new national convention for the next five years. They failed to agree two days ago and postponed their discussions until March 4. The kind of agreement they reach will have a decisive effect on the development of health costs.

The Minister did not exclude an increase in medical fees, which is one of the main bones of contention in the negotiations, provided a new convention was worked out.

He categorically ruled out any abolition of the present system of liberal medicine.

French devise experimental plan for quieter life

From Ian Murray
Paris, Feb 28

If a noise annoys a citizen of Blois or Toulouse or Aix-les-Bains for that matter—there now is an official means of redressing the complaint. In a programme being instituted by the Government, these three cities are the guinea pigs in a scheme that aims at ending the acrimony that can arise from unreasonably noisy neighbours.

In all 25 anti-noise measures were agreed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, although the draft of a law to give them force is not complete. The measures are aimed mainly at reducing the decibels generated by traffic, aircraft and household equipment. Grants are to be made for sound insulating dwellings.

Traffic has been regarded as the main enemy of a quiet life. Between June next year and October, 1982, vehicles in France will have to emit between 20 and 50 per cent less noise, to conform with new EEC directives.

The number of permitted decibels for each vehicle is to be entered on the log book and there will be a restriction on motorcycles with permitted levels based on acceleration rather than on idling speeds.

About 50m francs (about £54m) is to be spent on "soundproofing" of roads, and grants are to be made for soundproofing of houses to be increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

Aircraft landing charges will be based not only on the aircraft's seating capacity but on the amount of noise it makes. Tighter controls on the head for take-off and landing will be enforced on noisier aircraft.

A quarter of a million leaflets are to be circulated in schools explaining the problems of noise to children.

According to M Michel d'Ornano, the Minister of the Environment, who has devised the proposals, "no text can be drafted which permits over noise, which is the corollary of all human activity. But to master it, it is necessary to act against it all the time and in all ways."

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OVERSEAS

Flow of Rhodesia voters dwindles as heavy rains create difficulties in second polling day

Salisbury, Feb 28—After yesterday's impressive start, the turnout at Southern Rhodesia's election fell drastically today because of heavy rain.

In the remote bushlands, rain made road travel almost impossible and airports unusable. Election officials said the peak rainy season was beginning to hamper the election. Mobile polling booths had fallen seriously behind schedule in some regions, they said.

Tomorrow, the final day of voting for 80 black seats in the 100-seat parliament of Rhodesia, the polls will be held in the towns and cities. The guerrillas are expected to vote 100 per cent for their leaders, Mr Robert Mugabe and his former co-leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Mr Mugabe's sudden departure last night to meet President Machel in Mozambique, caused anger and puzzlement today. British officials said that the main contention in the election was Mr Mugabe's refusal to remain on hand for consultations with Lord Soames, the Governor.

Tension is still running high in the camps, and is likely to increase as political developments unfold, British officials said.

Though his Zanu(PF) party is expected to secure the biggest single party in Parliament, Mr Mugabe may not necessarily form the first government of Zimbabwe.

An alternative increasingly mentioned in British circles is a coalition between Mr Nkomo and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council.

Heavily armed troops and police patrol the streets of Salisbury, and shopkeepers, and office caretakers have been urged to look out for bombs.

Several streets in the city centre were sealed off by police today after two Africans were seen to leave a cardboard box in a stationary shop.

The box was detonated harmlessly by police, who said it had contained cameras belonging to an American journalist.

In spite of the problems, Sir John Boynton, the election commissioner, reported that the turnout in the voting had already surpassed the total votes cast in last April's disputed election.

By 3 p.m. he said, more than 2,100,000 voters had been cast. This represented about 67.7 per cent of the estimated 3,000,000 eligible voters in contrast to a turnout of 64.4 per cent in the five days of voting last April.

During the first 24 rain-soaked hours of voting, a military spokesman said 14 people were killed in clashes with security forces mobilized to protect the voters.

The Zanu (PF) Party complained that the invisible ink wiped on voters' hands to prevent them from voting twice could be washed off with Coca-Cola.

Electoral officials said that the invisible ink was not washed off, but that the Zanu (PF) party was using the method to get extra votes.

The invisible ink shows up under the infra-red light installed in each polling station. In the middle of the elections, Rhodesian leaders received a boost today with the news that white emigration fell last month to 637, compared to 707 in December.

National Council.

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Whites fined: Two young Rhodesian whites were fined in Salisbury for assaulting two British Army officers who were with coloured women.

The men, Mr David Horwood, aged 19, and Mr Frederick Wide, aged 20, admitted attacking the officers in a motel car park here last Friday night.

The two officers, who were treated in hospital for cuts and bruises, are both from the Commonwealth monitoring force. They are Colonel Vivian Ridley and Major Paul Bradley.

The court was told yesterday that the two officers, in civilian dress, were followed and attacked without having given provocation.

Zimbabwe prisoners: Zambia is holding about 200 Rhodesian soldiers and an unknown number of Rhodesian opponents of the Patriotic Front alliance, informed diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said that the Patriotic Front opponents included about 40 supporters of Bishop Muzorewa's Uanc party. Many of them were rounded up last weekend, apparently to stop them returning to Rhodesia to vote.

The sources said many of the Rhodesian soldiers held in the elite Selous Scouts, who have been responsible for a number of cross-border raids during the seven-year guerrilla war.

They said the Uanc detainees were held under 28-day detention orders. Their arrests were the result of close cooperation between Zambian police and security officials of Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front, based in Zambia during the Rhodesian war. —Reuter.

Belgrade sees Jenkins visit as proof of EEC care

From Desha Trevisan
Belgrade, Feb 28

The political importance of the European Community attaches to the arrival here of Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, for talks with Mr Veselin Djurjovic, the Yugoslav Prime Minister.

Last week, an agreement was reached in Brussels between Yugoslavia and the nine, offering considerable scope for Yugoslav exports and holding out a promise of increased economic cooperation.

As Yugoslavia is at present facing serious economic problems, this cooperation is expected to ease the "situation and help" the country in maintaining a fairly high growth rate.

The Yugoslavs are satisfied with the terms they have obtained from the EEC. The talks had been dragging on for two years. The EEC was spurred into quickening the negotiations by President Tito's illness and the belief that Yugoslavia's economic difficulties might have a destabilizing effect.

The Yugoslavs are aware of this. A Belgrade political commentator has said that the agreement reached in Brussels recognizes that a stable and non-aligned Yugoslavia is an important factor in European security.

The new agreement, which is to be signed next month, is expected to provide a strong incentive to Yugoslavia to reduce its huge balance of payments deficit with the Nine.

It is also expected to ease the country's current economic difficulties arising from high industrial growth, inflation and unemployment.

Whether all will work out as hoped remains to be seen. But the agreement is seen here as a confirmation of Western European interest in Yugoslavia's stability, as well as interest in extending economic cooperation.

Colombian unrest has middle class involvement

By David Watts

The spectacular kidnapping of 14 ambassadors in Bogota yesterday comes against a background of what the opposition sees as the progressive militarization of the regime of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, who was elected 18 months ago.

Leading opposition daily *El Espectador*: "It is no longer a crime to hold left-wing views in Colombia today; it is a crime to hold any kind of views whatsoever."

The Government's hard line has been contrasted by the increasing politicization of the peasantry and the middle class in the wake of the election which observers say provoked such cynicism among the voters that more than half of those eligible to vote failed to do so.

The President immediately followed those elections with a series of tough anti-subversive measures, including 30-year prison terms for state security offenders.

About a year ago a number of groups seeking improvements in human rights began to form across a broad political spectrum. This coincided with the most sensational operations carried out by M19—a raid on one of the country's largest military complexes, Cañon Noya at Desaguadero, north of Bogota, in which about 5,000 weapons were stolen.

The military later recovered most of them, but the operation, which involved tunnelling 75 yards into the complex, was a major setback for the Government.

The groups' aggressiveness of human rights violations, given increasing publicity by a courageous Colombian press, prompted the President Ayala to say that he was the only politician in the country since he was too busy to leave his office.

He was, however, faced with an estimated half-dozen active guerrilla groups who have apparently formed an alliance for the latest operation.

London says that M19 has some 400 active followers, according to the Colombian Defence Ministry, who are drawn from the ranks of students, professionals and the urban middle class.

Two hundred and nineteen members of M19 are presently facing court martial.

Under a legal state of siege since the endemic violence of the 1940s and 1950s. However, M19 dates only from the elections of April 19, 1974 when the movement arose out of what were then fraudulent elections in which the late Senator Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, leader of the Anapo Party, failed to be elected by about 50,000 votes.

The immediate catalyst for the kidnapping of the ambassadors appears to have been a decision by the President to open up a lot of publicity in the country, was given considerable freedom.

Two thousand people were interviewed during the operation, in 11 of the nation's prisons. The mission also spoke to the President and four ministers as well as the head of the prison service and the war academy.

Shortly afterwards, General Miguel Vido Orlibe, head of the War Academy, and Senator Jesus Elkin Carmona Lopez, head of the prison service, were relieved of their posts.

The publicity given to the Amnesty mission and its rejection by the President seems to have given rise to the hope that there would be immediate changes.

Within the weeks since the mission these hopes have not been realized, perhaps giving rise to this latest operation.

This speculation is borne out by the fact that the guerrillas immediately called for Amnesty to step in and handle the negotiations yesterday. Amnesty declined to do so.

Danes' new alcohol tax frowned at

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, February 28

The European Commission is pursuing with renewed vigour its campaign against discriminatory taxing of alcoholic drinks within the EEC, after yesterday's rulings by the European Court of Justice against France, Italy, Denmark and Ireland.

Mr Richard Burke, the EEC Commissioner responsible for taxation, today gave a warning that a new type of alcohol tax announced by the Danish Government would be regarded by the Commission as no less illegal than the existing tax system condemned yesterday by the court.

The new Danish tax would depart from the spirit of the similar type against France, Italy and the three Benelux countries, are being pursued before the court.

German divorce law passes constitution test

Karlsruhe, Feb 28—The West German Constitutional Court today upheld a new divorce law abolishing the concept of guilt and enabling former spouses to claim alimony years after their marriages have broken down.

The court rejected a total of 80 challenges to the validity of the law, most of them on the ground that it contradicted the state's constitutional duty to protect the family or that it discriminated against former husbands.

The new law made the breakdown of a marriage the sole criterion for a divorce. One year's separation is now sufficient ground if both partners want the divorce and three years if only one partner has made the application.

Most of the objections to the law came from husbands contesting its ruling that the wealthier partner had to provide alimony for the rest of his life if the other was unable to support himself. No women have lodged objections.

Simple conclusion to nuclear study

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Feb 28

The United States has backed down considerably from its hard line now that the Intergovernmental Commission on the peaceful use of nuclear energy has been formed.

According to Mr Gerard Rattjens, a member of the American delegation and chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission, there has been some relaxation of the Department's position that could be put into operation by Congress after the American election.

The Intergovernmental Commission, which is to be set up in Washington in October, 1977. It was a technical operation, meant to avoid the political issues in the supply and use of radioactive fuel. Sixty-six countries and five international organizations participated.

Woman executed

Peking, Feb 28—A Chinese woman convicted of embezzling more than 500,000 yuan (£167,000 at the official rate) in state funds was executed by firing squad in Harbin today.

Known as "the coal queen of her county", she was formerly in the province.

Mr Arthur Blessitt, an American evangelist, carries a 130lb cross along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv motorway on his way to Cairo.

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OVERSEAS

Carrington plan for Afghanistan rebuffed at non-aligned talks

From Richard Wigg, Delhi, Feb 28

Three important non-aligned countries, India, Yugoslavia, and Algeria have agreed during talks in Delhi over the past three days that they will not support Lord Carrington's proposals for a neutral Afghanistan.

But while they are opposed, with differing emphasis, to something on the lines of the 1955 Austrian State Treaty of 1955 to secure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reduce the East-West conflict in the region, they are too far apart to agree on any alternative formula.

After talks with both the Yugoslav and Algerian foreign ministers, the Indian Government spokesman opposed what he called neutrality "in the technical sense" which is how Delhi judges the British proposal.

The next step will come when Mr Eric Gonsalves, the Indian External Affairs Minister, official who has just finished three days of talks in Washington, reaches London on Monday. On the way, Mr Gonsalves is calling at Ottawa to hear the views of the new Liberal Government.

In the aftermath of last week-end's popular resistance to the Russians in Kabul, the Indians are more anxious than ever to find a way to take an initiative. Their difficulty is to find one which promises to be successful with so cumbersome and ideologically divided a body as the non-aligned movement today.

The wholly unsatisfactory result is that India's multilateral consultations must continue. For Delhi is also searching for a forum since the regional approach, after the soundings made with neighbouring governments, has also revealed its limitations.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal all put the emphasis on immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops, while the Indians see as too one-sided.

Mr Josip Vrhovac, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, brought a message for Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, from the dying President Tito urging a more vigorous initiative on Afghanistan from the non-aligned countries. But Belgrade's minister without portfolio, even securing Indian support for the calling of an extraordinary meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers.

The Yugoslavs agreed with the Indian position, emphasizing that the principles of non-alignment dictated a "real, independent, sovereign state" of Afghanistan, rather than a neutral status guaranteed by other powers. But Mr Vrhovac did say that the withdrawal of Soviet troops must be the beginning of the process to reduce tensions in the region.

Mr Gonsalves, in his talks in Washington appears to have raised an additional difficulty seen by India—what kind of internal settlement neutralization of Afghanistan would mean. The Russians would require at least a friendly government, even if they tacitly agree to dismantling the communist pretensions of the Kabul regime, but not a government of Islamic fundamentalists.

The contribution of Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister, has so far been only to emphasize the difficulties India faces if it is determined to initiate what he respects the formal unity of the non-aligned movement. Algeria's pro-Soviet tendency came out clearly when, according to Indian sources, both countries agreed yesterday that the movement must not swing to extremes favouring one great power or the other.

Last month's large vote at the United Nations General Assembly condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has not proved helpful to the non-aligned movement in building on the consensus agreed then.

Tension in Kabul eases as shop strike ends

From Robert Evans, Reuters Correspondent, Kabul, Feb 28

Soviet ground-to-air missiles were today seen for the first time at Kabul airport as tension appeared to be easing in the Afghan capital after last weekend's suppressed civil insurrection.

Five batteries with four missiles each were lined up along the airport runway, but they were not in firing position and seemed to have recently been delivered. There is a big Soviet Army camp at the end of the runway.

The missiles have not been seen in the Kabul area previously. It was not clear what purpose they might serve in the war that has mainly involved army units with insurgent tribesmen and townspeople.

Meanwhile, almost all shops in the city had reopened after a six-day strike to protest against the Soviet military presence.

The strike began in response to a call by an underground Muslim organization. It preceded the insurrection that broke out on Friday morning but had largely been put down by Saturday.

Until Tuesday many shopkeepers ignored government calls to reopen. When some tradesmen joined food store owners in going back to work yesterday, about 90 per cent of shops were open and government offices appeared to be working normally.

Today, most heavy Afghan Army tanks had been withdrawn from strategic points around the city.

Armed activists of the ruling People's Democratic Party and Afghan Army units were patrolling some areas but there was little sign of a Soviet presence in the city centre.

Accounts gathered from foreigners and Afghans suggested that during the insurrection the Soviet Army mainly confined itself to establishing defences around areas where Soviet civilians and their families live in and around Moscow's Embassy compound.

Diplomats in Kabul expressed strong scepticism about reports from Islamabad that the Government of Mr Babrak Karmal had begun executing Muslim leaders and insurgents captured after the insurrection.

"I simply do not believe it is happening," a senior foreign diplomat said.

In the past week, correspondents in Kabul have consistently found foreign radio broadcasts based on insurgent accounts issued in Pakistan of the situation in the city to be very inaccurate.

The tone of government press reporting indicated that Mr Karmal, who was installed in power in December after Soviet troops entered the country, still hoped to win evidence as a defender of Islam.

Summary killings of the type the sources in Islamabad have reported would further alienate the population and make Mr Karmal's efforts to present himself as a defender of Islam more difficult, the diplomats said.

An editorial in the English-language *Kabul Times* said yesterday that what it called a progressive regime is only tolerant to various groups, but so long is there do not lead to diversions from its chosen path.

It declared: "In case extremists worked up by fanaticism attempt to endanger national unity and security, this will be countered by a social menace (and will be) liable to commensurate treatment."



Leap to safety: Passengers jump from the front exit of the China Airlines Boeing 707 that burst into flames on landing at Manila airport on Wednesday after losing two engines. The 135 passengers survived the crash landing but a Taiwanese woman tourist died today in hospital of burns. A further 34 passengers are in hospital with burns and broken bones received in the 15 ft leap from the burning aircraft to the tarmac. One is in a critical condition. However, 74 were unscathed. The 11 crew members survived but all were injured. Mr Jesus Singson, of the Philippine Bureau of Air Transportation, has formed an investigation team to find the cause of the crash and explosion after a rough, nose-down landing. A nine-man group from China Airlines was on its way to help with the inquiry. Captain Wu Huang, aged 50, the pilot, will also participate in the inquiry.

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Lance court told of nearly \$1m in loans to friends and family

From Michael Leapman, Atlanta, Feb 28

Dozens of times a day, Judge Charles Moye would adjust his spectacles, lean forward until his nose almost touched his desk and peer through a small magnifying glass at one of a heap of cheques and deposit slips.

A lawyer for Mr Bert Lance, President Carter's former budget director, would object that the material was poorly copied, scarcely legible or lacking an identifying stamp. The judge would hear the objection and generally overrule it.

With the single word, "received," he would pass to the next piece of evidence in the trial of Mr Lance and three associates, charged with illegal banking practices, including fraud.

That most recent preliminary phase of the drawn-out Lance trial ended here yesterday after lasting a week. Seven weeks after the trial began, the first witness could at last be called to testify on Mr Lance's alleged unorthodox banking methods which are said to have allowed his friends and relatives to amass hundreds of thousands of dollars in overdrafts and unsecured loans.

The unusually extended preparation period was required because lawyers for the defendants are fighting the case every inch of the way. They have permitted some of the customary shortcuts to challenge individually any of the several thousand documents being offered in evidence by the prosecution.

For eight months at the start of the Carter presidency, Mr Lance was one of the half dozen most powerful people in the country, until forced to resign because of the allegations about his record as a banker. Today he sits in court, trying to look alert as the minutiae of his financial affairs over a decade are listed, perused and ruled upon.

Sometimes his hands are thrust deep into the pockets of his blue and grey mohair suits, as he stretches his bulky frame on the seat. Sometimes he has a hand to his face, his thumb curled into the flesh of his double chin and his first two fingers pressed hard into his pudgy left cheek.

His wife, Labele, an exemplary Southern name for an exemplary Southern lady—sits on the public stand behind, usually with some of their four sons. A fervent Baptist, she dresses demurely in suits and sweaters. Last week she was startled to be reprimanded by the judge for reading the Bible during a tedious spell.

Things became livelier yesterday when the first material witness was called to the stand, where he is still testifying today. He is Mr Richard Newell, the director of banking operations for the Georgia Banking and Finance Company, the Office of the Controller of the Currency responsible for



Mr Bert Lance: trial enters into lively phase.

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regulating national banks. He told of an examination he made of the Calhoun National Bank in 1975, when Mr Lance was chairman. He discovered long-standing loans and overdrafts to Mr Lance's friends and family—mainly his brothers-in-law—totaling nearly a million dollars.

Mr Newell said that when he raised this, Mr Lance said he was pleased because it would help him to persuade his relatives to repay the money. Most of them did, apparently with loans from other banks.

The full list of charges against Mr Lance and the other three mentions 363 suspect loans totalling \$20m (£8.7m) and involving 40 banks.

In his opening statement, Mr Nicholas Chivvis, one of the defence team, said that Mr Lance was simply an open-handed Southern country banker victimized by "powerful forces in Washington" and by Northern institutions.

The comfortable modern court room is in a brand-new white skyscraper on the edge of central Atlanta. It is the first big trial to be held here. You can still smell the varnish on the panelling and the newness of the fitted carpeting.

The building, which is not being officially opened until tomorrow, has a plaque outside on which President Carter's name is engraved. Though the President is not involved in the case, he is seldom far from the thoughts of those who are.

There is speculation whether his chances of reelection, but most analysts think it probably would not. Though Mr Lance and Mr Carter remain good friends, the banker did resign more than two years ago and attempt to link Mr Carter's banking activities with the 1976 Carter campaign funds have proved fruitless.

Fishermen in Japan kill 800 dolphins

Tokyo, Feb 28.—Japanese fishermen, claiming that they were protecting their livelihood against "the gangsters of the sea," killed more than 800 dolphins today despite conservationists' protests.

The fishermen on Japan's island of Iki were killing the sea mammals with spears and clubs and feeding the carcasses into a specially-built shredder that reduced them to pulp for fertilizer, according to an eyewitness of the scene.

"The machine is dripping with blood. I've never seen anything like it," Mr Jim Nollman, of Bolinas, California, said in a telephone interview.

Mr Nollman has been in the area, near the city of Nagasaki, testing acoustical equipment designed to scare the dolphins away from the Iki fishing grounds and thus avoid the mass killings.

"What's really frustrating is that the equipment works," Mr Nollman said. The fishermen have been able to work in but they're decided once and for all they're going to get rid of all the dolphins in the area."

Just two years ago, the fishermen of Iki caused world-wide indignation when they butchered 1,000 dolphins, aged and like ourselves. We consider them to be intelligent beings with feelings," AP.

US spouses may testify against each other

From David Cross, Washington, Feb 28

In a move that has delighted women's rights groups, the United States Supreme Court has freed men and women from the centuries-old ban on testifying in court against their spouses.

The court ruled yesterday that men and women may choose whether they want to testify against their husbands or wives. The ruling will, however, apply to federal cases only, and the 50 states will continue to set their own standards for local court cases. About half the states have already acted to remove the ban.

In its judgment the court said the ban was based on a number of "ancient" concepts, not least the idea of the wife as a chattel without any separate legal identity. More over one of the arguments in favour of the ban was that it helped to preserve a marriage.

The court pointed out that if a spouse was willing to help send the other to prison there was "probably little left in the way of marital harmony" to preserve. "Chips by chip, over the years, these archaic notions have been cast aside so that no longer is the wife deemed solely for the home and the rearing of the family, and only the male for the market place and the world of ideas," the court added.

Under the new ruling, Mrs Judith Lichtman, director of the Women's Legal Defence Fund, said that the so-called "spousal privilege" had often been used by husbands in their own defence. In recent cases, the decision by the Supreme Court could hasten the general move at the state level towards helping such women obtain damages from their husbands.

The actual case before the Supreme Court, however, involved an Air Force man and his wife who took part in a scheme to ship heroin from a safe in the basement of a house in the United States. The woman agreed to testify against her husband in return for legal immunity for herself.

The Supreme Court ruling upheld the decision by lower courts to allow the woman to testify over the objections of her husband.

Indonesia offers citizenship to its Chinese

Jakarta, Feb 28.—Indonesia is to grant citizenship to about a million Chinese living illegally in the country as a step to normalizing diplomatic relations with China.

The State Secretariat said today that President Suharto has instructed the Justice and Home ministries and the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta to register Chinese nationals and make clear that those who want to remain Chinese nationals must leave the country.—UPI

Nine work on details of neutrality plan

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Feb 28

Senior diplomats from the nine EEC countries met here today to work out details of a proposal for the neutralization of Afghanistan and which would open the way for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops.

No decisions were expected at the meeting, which Italian officials described as a "preparatory working group" rather than a ministerial conference. But the session was another sign that the European Community was moving ahead quickly with efforts to solve the Afghan crisis.

The senior diplomats were following up a call made here last week by the nine EEC foreign ministers for the neutralization of Afghanistan as a way of allowing the Soviet Union to withdraw without "losing face". The plan was immediately endorsed by President Carter.

The next stages in the discussions will be a meeting of officials in Rome on March 13 followed by consultations between foreign ministers. It is quite likely that if a formula can be produced quickly, it could be put to the EEC governments and Washington in the coming days.

The meetings are taking place in Rome as Italy is president of the EEC Council of Ministers for the first half of 1980. Italian leaders are likely to make the formal proposals to the Soviet Union, although the original idea came from Lord Carrington.

During his visit this week to Bonn the British Foreign Secretary suggested that Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, or Signor Amintore Fanfani, the Foreign Minister, might present the proposal.

Western diplomats here say they are also discussing a way of allowing the United States to consult on a regular and organized basis with its European allies. Mr Vance, the United States Secretary of State, had hoped to start this process with a meeting in Bonn on January 20 with the foreign ministers of Britain, West Germany, France and Italy, but the meeting was vetoed by France.

In view of the strong French position, diplomats are considering holding regular meetings of a group of European embassies in Washington, and senior officials in Washington.

Family members of Taiwan dissident killed

Taipei, Feb 28.—The mother and two daughters of Mr Lin Xibing, a political dissident facing trial for sedition, were found murdered at their home here after visiting Mr Lin in prison, police said today.

Mr Lin, aged 39, a member of the Taiwan Provincial Assembly and circulation manager of the banned *Formosa* magazine, was arrested soon after a riot in the southern city of Kaohsiung last December.

Mr Lin and seven others, all associated with the magazine, were indicted on charges of sedition.—Reuters.

Moscow attempt to end war in Eritrea reported

Beirut, Feb 28.—The Soviet Union, apparently disturbed by heavy military losses inflicted on its ally Ethiopia, is urging the Soviet Union to end the war in the province of Eritrea, Arab diplomatic sources here said today.

They said the Russians had emphasized their desire for a peaceful settlement in talks with the head of a guerrilla group fighting for the independence of Eritrea.

The 16-year war is Africa's longest conflict. Ethiopian troops trained and armed by the Soviet Union are fighting guerrillas of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF).

According to the sources, Mr Ahmed Nasir, head of the ELF-RC, was invited to Moscow by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party after the Ethiopians suffered severe defeats, including the loss of at least 450 crack troops.

in a one-week battle north of the Red Sea port of Assab this month.

Western diplomats said that the Soviet Union seemed reluctant to commit more weapons and advisers to the war in Eritrea after intervening in Afghanistan, although about 800 miles of coastline on the Red Sea make Eritrea an area of strategic importance.

The Arab sources said that the Russians had proposed that Mr Nasir's guerrillas establish contact with the Ethiopian Government. But it was not clear whether the Russians were exerting pressure on the hard-liners in the Ethiopian military council, the Dergue, who have been in favour of crushing the Eritrean secessionists by force of arms.

The Soviet appeal for negotiations appeared to reflect concern that the war in Eritrea could lead to the collapse of the Dergue, which is facing economic and social problems.—Reuters.

Banning order on three black leaders

Port Elizabeth, Feb 28.—Three members of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organization (Pebco), detained after a strike at the city's cinema, today were served with banning orders.

Colonel Gerrit Erasmus, security police chief in the Eastern Cape, confirmed that the men were released from detention yesterday and served with the three-year orders under the Internal Security Act.

Mr Thozamile Botha, chairman of Pebco, was detained on January 10 along with Mr Phelo Isakane, ebco secretary, and Mr Mono Badela, a journalist and ebco member, and held under the terrorism Act.

Mr Botha, a former trainee draughtsman at the Ford plant, was instrumental in staging a seven-week strike by the 700 employees last November.

Under the banning orders, the movement of the men is restricted and they are not to attend public meetings, be quoted or see more than one person at a time. A similar order was served on Mr Dan Gqene, another executive Pebco member released from prison earlier.

The orders were condemned by Mr Wilson Skosana, acting Pebco chairman, who said they would have to tart a fund to support the men.

South Korea returns civil rights to 677 dissidents

Seoul, Friday morning.—Choi Kyu Hah, South Korea's caretaker President, today took a step towards restoring civil liberties to 677 political dissidents persecuted by the regime of President Park Chung Hee.

Heading the list was Mr Kim Dae Jung, aged 55, who had been an opponent of President Park and had campaigned against his rule for the last 10 years.

The rehabilitation will allow Mr Kim to engage in politics, making him the leading contender in the next presidential election to be held in about a year.

President Choi said that he decided to rehabilitate people who had violated President Park's emergency decree because he wanted to form the basis for national reconciliation.

All political prisoners convicted under the emergency decree were released soon after President Park was killed by his intelligence chief last October. Their reinstatement has been sought by both the ruling and opposition parties.

Those rehabilitated included 365 students and 21 professors who will return to their university campuses after being expelled.

Among the 42 Catholic and Protestant priests recovering their civil rights are Bishop Chik Hak Soon of the Wonju diocese and the Quaker leader, Mr Ham Suk Hui.

All had been convicted for denouncing President Park's rule and received prison terms as well as losing civil rights.

However, Mr Kim Ji Ha, the dissident poet now serving life imprisonment, did not benefit from today's measure, because, authorities said, he had been convicted by the anti-communist law for his stand favourable to North Korea. Agency France-Press and AP.

Cult group defectors found murdered in California

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Feb 28

A Berkeley couple who were once close associates of the Rev Jim Jones and believed that they were on a "hit list" because they defected from Jones' People's Temple, were found murdered in California today.

From 1976 to 1978 the Mills tried in vain to expose Jones. In an affidavit the couple signed in October, 1978, they stated that "since we left the church our children have been harassed, threatened and molested. They threatened to beat us up and to kill us if we did anything to expose them."

The Mills' daughter, Daphne, is in a critical condition. Today, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Jones mentioned the couple by name in a rambling tape-recorded speech made while his followers died in a mass suicide in 1978.

"Remember Deanna Mertle and Elmer... the people in San Francisco won't be idle," Jones said ominously about the defectors couple shortly before he died in the jungle compound.

Deanna and Elmer Mertle, as they were known until they left the People's Temple, had changed their names to Al and Jeannie Mills.

formed "assassination squads" before the mass murder-suicide in Jonestown, Guyana, of 914 people in November, 1978.

Investigators say they have found no evidence so far linking the Mills' murders to the People's Temple.

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South African priest jailed for defying banning order

Cape Town, Feb 28.—The Rev David Russell, an Anglican priest, was today imprisoned for a year for defying a government banning order.

Mr Russell pleaded guilty and said his actions were "a moral and religious duty".

He was also sentenced to 27 months' imprisonment, suspended for five years, on 11 other charges.

The magistrate told Mr Russell that he had acted in open defiance of the law and had showed no sign of remorse.

ted him meeting more than one person at a time.

In a much-publicized breaking of the order, he attended an Anglican synod in Port Elizabeth in December and put forward in December motions on racial discrimination.

The slain, bespectacled priest was given a standing ovation when he entered the synod. Some of his supporters were convicted there would be a confrontation between the Church and State if he was jailed.

The magistrate said that a stiff sentence was warranted "You accepted the music," you now must face the music," Mr Russell's counsel said he would study the judgment and would apply before deciding whether to appeal.—Reuters.

Chinese take delivery of jumbo jet

Peking, Feb 28.—China took delivery today of the first of three jumbo jets it is buying from the United States.

The Boeing 747-SP aircraft landed at Peking airport after a 14-hour flight of 5,666 miles from Los Angeles. The three aircraft in the order, a total cost of \$146m (about £64m).

The first will be ready for use by April 1.—UPI

Body of climber seen on Everest

Katmandu, Feb 28.—The body of Frau Hamelore Schmatz, aged 39, the first woman mountaineer to die on Everest, has been seen by two Polish climbers who approached within 10 ft during their descent from the peak.

Mr Leszek Cichy and Mr Krzysztof Wielicki said today there was no sign of the body of Mr Ray Genet, an American, who also died during the Schmatz expedition, but they had seen some climbing equipment.

—Reuters

Polish workers' leader denies criminal charges

By Michael Scammell

Plans to silence one of the most effective provincial leaders of the dissident workers' movement in Poland, Mr Edmund Zadroznyski, appear to have failed. He was today seen by the chief prosecution witness at his trial, his son Miroslaw, withdrawing a statement made during the pre-trial investigation.

Mr Miroslaw Zadroznyski told the court that he did not need a defence counsel and said to the prosecutor: "You, Mr Prosecutor, can defend me, since you promised that I would go free if I testified against my father."

His father is charged with taking part in burglaries, handling stolen goods and inciting black market currency deals. The trial opened in Grudziadz on Monday. Mr Edmund Zadroznyski, a

former metal worker and shop steward, had an accident at work in 1973, and in 1974 was granted a disability pension. He remained in contact with the dissident workers' movement and the food strikes of July, 1976, was seeking compensation for 43 workers who were dismissed for taking part in them.

Soon afterwards he established contact with the Workers' Defence Committee, now known as the Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR). In December, 1977, he joined the editorial board of the unofficial workers' newspaper, *Robotnik* (The Worker) with a circulation of up to 15,000 copies.

He was passing information to *Robotnik* about local discontent with rising prices, shortages, inefficiency in the local administration, the grievances of the dismissed workers and the support given them by the townspeople.

In November, 1977, Mr Zadroznyski was temporarily detained. The next year he was briefly held again and his flat was twice raided. Six open letters were then written to the authorities in his support, some of which had up to a thousand signatures.

After his arrest last July, there were many similar letters and a leaflet campaign denouncing his detention.

In the face of such reaction, the authorities decided to put Mr Zadroznyski on trial on criminal charges rather than political charges.

The charges were based on testimony given by a dozen witnesses, serving prison terms for petty crimes. A key witness was a Mr Andrzej Slowikowski, who apparently "escaped" from a guard exercise yard after his capture, but after having testified against Mr Zadroznyski.

Mr Zadroznyski's son Miroslaw, who has a record of juvenile delinquency made a statement that his father was a local gang leader who had organized criminal activities.

On the first day of the trial, however, the son admitted that the story was invented. Since then, he has heard other witnesses change their stories when he heard his father denying the charges.

This is not the first case in which criminal charges are professed against a dissident. Last month, Mr Jan Kozlowski, an editor of the unofficial peasant periodical *Placówka* (Outpost) was arrested after having complained that his windows had been broken by a hooligan. Mr Kozlowski and his wife were accused of beating the man and sentenced to two years and one and a half years in prison respectively.

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Systems Analyst Programmer (Ref. KIS/334/79)

Requires minimum of three years experience in the design and development of computer systems, writing of program logic, coordinating implementation and testing of on-line systems and the maintenance of existing systems.

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Requires minimum of five years experience in the design, programming, implementation and maintenance of

on-line commercial systems using database. Must have prior ability to carry complex project from feasibility study through to implementation.

Database Specialist (Ref. MA/1468)

Requires minimum of five years experience in the design of computer systems using IDMS database. Should have experience in data communications, data administration, the establishment of a data dictionary and assisting systems analysts and computer operations department in the use of database.

Technical Systems Analyst (Ref. MA/1469)

Requires minimum of five years experience in providing computer support for engineering projects. Must be proficient in "fortran." Applicants with current experience in Petroleum/Chemical Industry and knowledge of Computer Process Control, CPM/PERT and Linear Programming will be given preference.

All applicants should have appropriate degree. Experience on large scale ICL 2900 computers is desirable. Salary is attractive, and an apartment will be provided. Benefits include: Education assistance. Coverage under the company's medical, workmen's compensation and term life insurance schemes. Terminal benefits at end of service. Air passage with annual leave for employee and family. These and other benefits will be detailed at time of interview.

Interested candidates are invited to write in confidence within two weeks from today, giving details of academic qualifications and career history to date, present employer and present position. Full personal data, address and telephone number. Kindly address applications, quoting job title and reference number to: Employment Supervisor, Kuwait National Petroleum Co., P.O. Box 70, Safat, Kuwait.

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Application form and further details from the Clerk & Chief Executive (Ref. CPD/771), County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN. Telephone: 01-546 1050, ext. 3577.

Closing date: 21 March, 1980.



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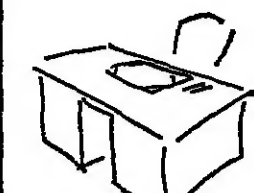
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Applications are invited for the appointment of Secretary of the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for the South East of England which covers the counties of Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex.

The successful applicant will be required to assume the position shortly.

Applicants should preferably have service staff experience of at least Grade I level (or equivalent) and have reached the age of 45 but not have reached the age of 56 on assuming appointment, unless now employed by a Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association.

The present salary is £10,830 per annum.

The appointment will be for a probationary period of eighteen months in the first instance, after which it may be confirmed to the age of 60 with further extensions of one year up to the age of 65, subject to satisfactory annual reports. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination, and will also be expected to contribute to the Association Superannuation Fund.

Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, South East TA & VR Association, Sandling Place, Chatham Road, Maidstone. Completed forms must reach the Association by the 31st March, 1980. No testimonials or similar documents should be sent until asked for. All applications received will be acknowledged. Any form of canvassing will lead to immediate disqualification.

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Salary: £15,117-£16,647 p.a. inclusive

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Both these functions are vital services in a deprived inner city area and the Director would be expected to show an understanding of the social and economic problems in such an area and to display sensitivity in tackling those problems. He or she will need to have obtained substantial managerial experience in a large organisation and should ideally have considerable local government experience in one of the main operational functions of the Directorate. We place particular emphasis on the ability of candidates to demonstrate a high level of managerial skill, especially in the area of motivation.

As part of Lambeth's Equal Opportunities Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of disability, marital status, race or sex. Application forms and further information obtainable from the

Senior Personnel Officer (Ref. E9), Directorate of Management Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL. Tel. 01-274 7722 ext. 3009.

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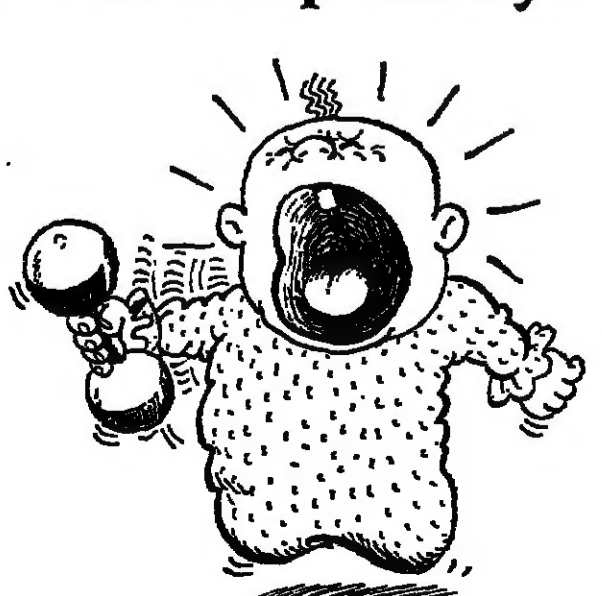
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THE ARTS

The seven-year nightmare of survival

The Onion Field (X)
ABC Shaftesbury Av.

Song of the Shirt
ICA Cinema

Jazz and Blues season
National Film Theatre

Joseph Wambaugh was so impressed by the way Robert Aldrich filmed his novel *The Onion Field* that he decided that the next time one of his books was filmed he would be in charge. Although he does not receive a credit as the producer of *The Onion Field*, it was Wambaugh who bought back the rights to his book and raised the money for the film to be made by the director Harold Becker as he wanted.

It is a rare case of an author fighting back against the often insensitive and predatory film industry. Wambaugh says that it is a faithful representation of his documentary novel *The Onion Field*, based upon actual events and written after extensive research. The book describes the murder in 1963 of a Los Angeles policeman by two petty thieves, their subsequent trial and the lasting psychological agony of the policeman who survived the crime.

Careful casting has matched the actors James Woods and Franklin Seales to the parts of the two killers, Greg Powell and Jimmy Smith, and the like-paired actors to the policeman and the two crooks are made to look grotesque, the useful night is reconstructed.

The thieves are on their way to a robbery and are stopped by a policeman. They pull a gun and force the policeman to drive into the country. There, up a dirt track in the middle of an onion field, they shoot one of the



Hettinger (John Savage) forced to relinquish his revolver in *The Onion Field*.

patrolman dead, on the false assumption that, since the crime carries with it the death penalty. The second policeman scrambles to safety. Until the capture of the murderers the film is a fine police thriller, admirably down-to-earth and as real as a screen crime can be. But from then, roughly halfway through, the film becomes bogged down in Wambaugh's moralizing. As a former policeman, he is keen to emphasize the difficulty in proving the pair guilty, even though they both admit to being present and one even confesses to the murder.

American justice drags on for seven years while the prisoners await their execution by passing with a seemingly endless sequence of appeals and retrials. Lawyers despair and the surviving policeman becomes suicidal at having repeatedly to relive the night in the onion field when he ran for his life and as he wonders to what extent he

was responsible for his colleague's death. This exploration of his own guilt might have provided a human centre for the story but Wambaugh has not been so thin and played with such cold efficiency by John Savage. With the other policeman a stoic Californian Scot, only the killers appear attractive. And, as amusing as their flaws are, sometimes allowed to seem, it does not suit Wambaugh to make them appear sympathetic. So the film, for all its gritty authenticity and sober integrity, rarely becomes engrossing.

Wambaugh's earnest, partisan portrayal of the unhappy policeman's lot has caused him to overlook the best part of this sad story: how the ill-educated and self-deluding Powell managed to persuade a number of cheap crooks to abduct him and then, having been caught, how he was able so eloquently and proficiently to mount his own defence. He was a poor thief but a splendid actor and,

by the end of the film, he has become a knowledgeable, self-educated lawyer.

The Onion Field is an attempt to force the pendulum in cinema away from the portrayal of crooks and murderers as romantic heroes in favour of the honest cop. But, in films as in life, policemen rarely stand as such generous promotion. Those who break the law are more interesting than those who keep and protect it, not least because they are out of the ordinary. And, like the contingent of Metropolitan Police who roared with laughter at the sick antics of their Los Angeles counterparts during the press show of Aldrich's charnel *The Choirboys*, policemen rarely live up to the image laid down in *The Blue Lamp*.

Film history is spattered with the bodies of those who fell foul of cinema tyrants, be they sadistic directors or philistine producers. Whatever the merits of individual cases, there is little doubt that films

are best made by a single dictator. If he is benign, so much the better, but the faster the day when films are made by committee.

A vision of what that horrifying future might bring is provided by *Song of the Shirt*, extensively directed by Susan Claxton and Jonathan Curling but, according to the credits, the product of a cooperative effort, which spanned many educational institutions, individuals and pressure groups, compulsively called *The Film and History Project*. So many opinions were heard and, sadly, so many taken notice of, that the film lasts 135 minutes.

It is an exaggeration to say that the film is at least twice as long as it might have been. Indeed, if shorter, it would have been far more effective in putting across its garbled interpretation of the history of the film. It is a pity that the film is so long, but it is a pity that it is so long.

If the collective film makers' hearts are in the right place, then their eyes must certainly be not. Their film defies the first principles of cinematic narrative and argument, throwing fiction and fact, video and film, history and present day together so that confusion is the only antidote to boredom. It is as if Charles Kingsley had bundled a pile of assorted documents, tables, sketches and blank paper instead of writing *Yeast* and *Alton Locke*.

The National Film Theatre, from tomorrow, celebrating the work of TCB Releasing, a British film distributor founded in 1972 which specializes in films about jazz and the blues. All the films to be shown in the next three weeks are as competent, informative and enjoyable as *To the Cave of Bunsie*, the first film which they have co-produced, the season will be a treat for jazz lovers, as it contains film of just about every major jazz and blues musician.

Nicholas Wapshott
David Robinson is at the Berlin Film Festival.

The Loud Boy's Life Warehouse

Irving Wardle

Managers may emigrate to Nice, the West End be plunged in darkness and Saudi Arabian spectaculars take over the National Theatre, but there will always be a new Howard Barker play at the Warehouse. True to form, *The Loud Boy's Life* runs for three hours, one act, and is a historical comedy, which spans many educational institutions, individuals and pressure groups, compulsively called *The Film and History Project*. So many opinions were heard and, sadly, so many taken notice of, that the film lasts 135 minutes.

It is an exaggeration to say that the film is at least twice as long as it might have been. Indeed, if shorter, it would have been far more effective in putting across its garbled interpretation of the history of the film. It is a pity that the film is so long, but it is a pity that it is so long.

My first thought is that surely this cannot be Enoch Powell yet again; but if not, it is hard to think of any other model, and if Fricker is an enthusiastic character it is hard to see just where his survivor from the original cast, her gauche, frumpy American tourist now sympathetically portrayed by Derek Purcell as the steward who gives her sentimental shipboard memory. Among the newcomers to the cast, Chene Williams makes a snaky Theda Bara, Stephen Wicks a gothic Bernard Shaw, and Iain Webb shakes a nimble toe as a Neapolitan showman.

The baller's best section is the sequence of moonlit tirades: the only time a thread of plot develops from the impersonations. Apart from that, the dancers just do their own numbers with no real interaction. The climax comes with Desmond Kelly mouthing the words of "Half-caste woman" to Noel Coward's recording. Big deal.

The programme began with MacMillan's *Concerto*, in which Galina Samosova's ballerina arms

appeal is 'supposed to lie for the cover. You're the only loud boy we've got' chorus a group of wealthy tooligans who invade him into a striptease at their annual dinner as a prelude to showering him with campaign funds.

Clive Merrison plays him with shoulders drawn up to his ears and features, clenched around a crafty twinkle, which accords well enough with the character as written: a cold-blooded Narcissus whose justice personal vanity shades into the sense of historical destiny, but who never drops a single phrase, much less any sketch of a policy, that explains his alleged mesmeric hold over the country.

The locations, which include Greenwich Park during a 1942 air raid, the House of Commons and the crypt of St Paul's (where Ezra is due to be laid to rest in the next niche to T. E. Lawrence), follow Barker's usual taste for the specific; and, as usual, I cannot connect them with the world I know, any more than I can follow the transition between Ezra the sexually inhibited young subaltern, and Ezra the republican VIP.

Barker is equipped to a rare degree with the instinct for theatrical moments, but on recent showings these reveal less and less sign of coalescing into a satisfying pattern. The work depends obsessively on reversals and degradation; and at their best, as in the first act reveals of the Ancient Order of Savages, they take the acting area by storm. But what about the old Home Office official who sides with the Nazi bombers; or the parliamentary election committee who get drunk on the job; or Ezra's neglected wife who pulls a gun on him during an opening ceremony?

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Opera: in Wales and West Germany

Eugene Onegin

New Theatre, Cardiff

William Mann

How often I have seen or heard a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* which had obviously grown from a desire to revive that lovely score, not because the ideal cast was available. Welsh National Opera's new production looks to have started with the idea of casting Josephine Barstow as Tatjana and Thomas Allen in the same part. Neither had sung the role before; both seemed perfectly suited.

On the evidence of the first performance in Cardiff this week, one might deduce that WNO next booked a producer with a rich, bold sense of visual

poetry, the Romanian Andrei Serban (discussed in a recent article on this page), though he had not produced an opera before, then perhaps the Soviet conductor Mark Ermler. The stage designer, Michael Yeargan from Texas, must have been Serban's choice: he, too, has challenging and illuminating ideas about the atmosphere of *Onegin*.

That seems to me an intelligent way to plan a new production of an opera whose century has brought out a clutch of them from various companies. The WNO *Onegin* is not merely acceptable, but an outstanding blend of sensitive music-making, well balanced and interesting characters on stage, and a procession of stage-pictures far beyond the everyday purview of opera production. Some of them are unforgettable in vision: the first act, the most beautiful cinematic shots you can remember.

The first act is based on a cornfield. The sisters sing their opening duet as they amble through it, later joined by the two older ladies, musically the scene does not work, because the pairs of voices should be carefully distanced, but it does suit the peasants' rite just afterwards, animated dance in front, static reclining behind, and how the WNO chorus responds to Tchaikovsky's employment of chorus in these unpretentious "lyric scenes", fervently yet under proper control for each situation.

The cornfield is still there for the Letter Scene, outside a sketched Tatjana's simple bedroom. At first it looks an economical solution. When her letter is finished, she walks out into the field as the sun rises, and her rapt stroll, often pausing, carries moving overtones of burgeoning girlhood, romantic dreams and more besides.

There is comparable visual imagination throughout the spectacular use of a scrim for Mme Larina's ball, the degree of informality there; the manner of Lensky's death, walking normally towards Onegin until he stumps in his murderer's arms; the visible, off-stage presence of Tatjana during Gremio's aria about his love for her; the end of the opera, Tatjana's front door firmly closed on Onegin outside.

It is a magical feat of stagecraft, chiefly because the scenery and scenic ideas are poised to the actors of the leading roles. At Covent Garden the other day, the several interpretations did not blend; here they do. Crucially, all the leading Onegin, domed though wholly sympathetic, handsome and sociable, not boorish or insensitive

at all, the music lying comfort on a glorious baritone expertly used. Miss Barstow conveys girlhood, then the poised aristocratic wife, and unites them, her voice as intelligent as ever, but more beautiful and expressive than expected. Crucially, all the leading Onegin, domed though wholly sympathetic, handsome and sociable, not boorish or insensitive

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Josephine Barstow as Tatjana.

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of poet, devoured by ideals too shallow to sustain love. As he hopes that this inspired production, so sensitively lit by Robert Bryan, may survive the inevitable changes of cast in its revivals, just as I hope that the WNO Orchestra will go on playing over as stylishly when other conductors take over from Mr Ermler, here far more touching than in his recent recording.

Munich—"about the decline of western culture", as the programme puts it, with Freud's beautiful and glamorous pupil Lou Andreas-Salomé and Daniel Paul Schreber, of Freud's celebrated "Schreber case", as leading characters. Sinopoli made the house orchestra here sit up and take notice. He was helped by a performance of exceptional tension and finesse.

Renato Bruson as Macbeth and Veriano Luchetti as Macduff drew their own share of attention, although the latter's fundamental attitude towards his material evoked the forgotten London critic's theorem relating the highest of a brain, Victor von Halem, a certain bass-baritone giant in human form, made Banquo as imposing figure both physically and vocally.

The production brings this house probably its greatest success since Siegfried Palm took over its leadership. Ironically, it comes on the heels of the announcement that the Berlin Senate will not renew his contract. To succeed him will be the brilliant stage director Götz Friedrich, whom some Covent Garden patrons, however, seem to have found a bit of a mixed blessing.

This development will bring to this walled, divided city an unusual, perhaps unusual, situation. Both Götz Friedrich and Joachim Herz, who runs the Komische Oper over in East Berlin, got their start in the West. In addition, the past five years have brought him a solid reputation in avant-garde circles as a composer. He currently has in the works an operatic score jointly commissioned by Berlin and

BBCSO/Loughran Festival Hall/Radio 3

Paul Griffiths

Sir Clifford Curzon on Wednesday was the recipient of what he quite properly described as "the highest award in the whole world of music": he got the medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society. There to present it, or rather to thrust it into his hands with bashful informality, was a previous gold medalist of the society, Sir Michael Tippett, who drew particular attention to Sir Clifford's performances of Mozart and Beethoven.

Sir Clifford might have wished he had not had to demonstrate his worthiness immediately before the ceremony, but in the event his performance of Beethoven's fourth concerto, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under James Loughran, showed many of the qualities which have won him the highest award.

There was nothing forced or mannered in the playing, yet phrase after phrase was illuminated by some subtle change of tone or accentuation in his crisp elegance. Then there were those fine changes of colour in perfect response to changes in the harmonic movement, and throughout the performance, most especially that sense of the piano as the vehicle for all that speaks most in music of grace and intelligence.

At the beginning of the concert there had been another concerto, Thoma Musgrave's for orchestra. Twelve years ago when this was new it attracted attention for having several players and even whole groups get up to their feet in the last of the five sections, but this time round the assertions of individuality seemed quite unsensational.

There followed Elgar's *Fantasy* in an excessively unbuttoned reading that did scant justice to the third RPS laureate of the evening.

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TOO LITTLE REGARD FOR QUALITY

The Flowers report on the future of medical education in London concludes with a tag from Francis Bacon: "No remedial cause so much pain as those which are efficacious." The working party were accurate in predicting that their recommendations would cause pain in many a threatened academic post, but the general principle is one unknown to modern analysts. Still less in favour is a related principle, implicitly suggested by the placing and context of the epigraph, that remedies may be recognized as likely to be efficacious by their tendency to cause pain. Even where drastic surgery is needed, we know now, avoidable shock only adds to the stress upon the patient.

The common starting point, at least, is that the patient in this case is sick. It has been obvious for decades that the great London teaching hospitals are suffering from malnutrition—only in respect of funds, where signs of deprivation and squalor are both apparent, but also in respect of that indispensable nourishment of medical schools, the supply of sick people. The population of London, and especially of inner London, where the schools have their historical origins has been steadily shrinking. At the same time, growing economic pressures on the NHS as a whole have caused other parts of the country to look hungrily towards the relatively high spending on medical care in London, which they are only gradually catching up with.

DIPLOMATIC HOSTAGES IN BOGOTÁ

In seizing fourteen ambassadors and holding them hostage, the guerrillas of the M-19 movement have achieved their immediate aim—of attracting world attention to Colombia and the increasingly repressive policies of President Turbay Ayala's Government. Whether they will succeed in reducing these repressive tendencies, assuming that that is what the guerrillas want, is a great deal more doubtful. It is after all the activities of M-19 and other similar groups which have provoked, and in the eyes of many Colombians, justified the tougher policies that President Turbay has followed since he took office in 1978. M-19 itself claims to have been formed in protest against the workings of the political system in Colombia. But the movement's origins and aims are obscure, and there is a suspicion that that repression has to be deliberately provoked, in order to show up the nature of the system and set off a reaction.

It would be unfortunate if this succeeded. Colombia is a country which has had a great deal of violence throughout its history; in the virtual civil war which

through the resource allocation programme.

These disparities are not as great as they seem. A higher rate of spending on the London medical schools is warranted on the grounds of the high standard of teaching that they provide. Many of their specialist services are centres of excellence drawing patients from all over the country, and indeed beyond. There are parts of London, at least, where the general health is low and extra services are justifiable. The schools have gone over the problem of shortage of patients to some extent by arranging for their students to spend time at other hospitals in and around London. But the population continues to decline, and some schools find it impossible to provide the full range of specialist teaching that the modern syllabus expects.

There has never been a comprehensive plan for the future of hospital care in London. Some hospitals have been expensively rebuilt a little way out from the centre, and their catchment areas hemmed in those that remain behind. The Flowers report takes this haphazard growth as an inescapable constraint upon future planning and works out consequential adjustments with only slight attention to such factors as tradition and the fierce sense of identity which underlies the achievements of each school.

Broadly, the plan pairs the great schools off, two by two, into more or less loose associa-

tions with which many smaller institutions can be linked (or in many cases absorbed). It usually proposes strange new names for these compound entities with scant regard for the resonance of those that it discards ("Where is the Royal Free, where is Guy's? Nay, which is more and most of all, where is Bart's?). Of the great schools, the Westminster, the most hemmed in and the one without pre-clinical teaching facilities, is the one whose identity would be most completely obliterated, though its standards of care and teaching are among the highest, and it is popular with patients.

Like all grand schemes for reorganization, in health as in local government, the plan can be counted on to create more expense and disruption than anticipated. But above all, it starts from the wrong direction. It determines the future of schools with reference to catchment areas and bed numbers, hardly at all to quality of service. Yet in considering the fate of places of learning, the first consideration of all should be quality. The first task is to identify the strongest teaching institutions and then see how to maximise their effectiveness. Links and cooperation between schools may well enable them to do their work better, but it is a heavy responsibility to squander the accumulated traditions and skills of any medical school by destroying its identity altogether.

armed forces have been increasingly insistent that they should be given a freer hand to deal with them, and when President Turbay took office they got it. After M-19 had carried out their first big coup in January, 1979, when they robbed a military armory of 5,000 arms, there was a wave of political arrests which included members of legal left-wing opposition groups, Catholic activists and others who appeared to have a slender connexion with the robbery of the armory. The armed forces have had an extraordinarily free hand in many parts of the country, and there is evidence of a widespread use of torture.

M-19 may well have been influenced in deciding to take the ambassadors hostage by the success of the Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua, who pulled off similar coups and eventually succeeded in ousting President Somoza last year. But Colombia is not Nicaragua, and a closer parallel could be with Uruguay, where the activities of the Tupamaros guerrillas led to more and more military involvement in the government, ending in the extremes of repression of the last few years.

There has also been a darker side—the extensive poverty, only too visible in Bogotá itself, at a time when the economy as a whole has been booming; the corruption in the political system, which has led many people to conclude that nothing could be achieved by democratic processes; and the guerrillas in many parts of the country. Colombia has always had guerrillas, but in recent years the

spread ignorance about the existence of the prohibition in the first place.

The most telling argument of those who discern social or moral utility in the prohibition is the analogy of adoption. Few would approve of opening the availability of marriage between adopted children and their adoptive parents (although no question of consanguinity arises), and the law of adoption expressly forbids it, or for the reasons the such licence might threaten or distort the parental relationship which is of the essence of adoption. It is no less of the essence of a step-parent/step-child relationship, even though the child may be rather older when the relationship begins. Especially is that so if the other natural parent is dead or fled.

No general legislation in this matter should be approved which does not preserve the unambiguous of that parental relationship for as many years as are required for its unambiguous preservation. In the meantime the House of Lords has shown that it will entertain relief in deserving cases. Promotion of private legislation is a high hurdle to clear. But a high hurdle is appropriate. It is the hurdle that all divorces a vinculo had to clear until a mere 123 years ago.

taboos. No such objections can be made against unions within the forbidden degrees of affinity—which leads some to conclude that the law should raise no objection at all. Lady Wootton of Abinger twice introduced a Bill last year in the House of Lords to abolish the remnants of the affinity bar to marriage. On the first occasion the Bill was given a second reading. The dissolution of parliament intervened, and the Bill fell. Lady Wootton introduced it again in the new parliament. It was then refused a second reading. That was due less to a conversion of opinion than to the accident of attendance in the Upper House. Lady Wootton would not be herself if she did not try again.

Supporters of the Bill can cite hard and deserving cases, though in the nature of things the number is not likely to be very great. Their most telling supporting argument to their main proposition (that the law should provide relief in these cases) is that the growth of illicit desires within families or the willingness and ability to satisfy them is hardly likely to be affected by the presence or absence of legal prohibition, when no question of criminality arises and when there is wide-

spread ignorance about the existence of the prohibition in the first place.

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tion and finally approved by the Secretary of State following the examination in public.

The Secretary of State has of course power to "call in" an application and deal with it himself, but in the words of one of his civil servants "it is not his normal practice to interfere in the way in which planning authorities carry out their duties." If county councils are to lose their present powers, then unless the Secretary of State takes a much firmer line on enforcing the policies which he himself has approved in county structure plans, the system of planning control will have been significantly changed for the worse. Those who care for our heritage of towns and countryside and who should not stand by and allow these changes to be made in the name of reducing delays in "bringing the system up to date".

Yours faithfully,
J. F. O. SWITZER,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge.
February 22.

Differences about Britain's road to hyper-inflation

From Mr P. V. Muston

Sir, In your leader "The road to hyper-inflation" February 26, there is much with which to agree (though your reference to the rhinoceros was untypically unconvincing). You rightly castigate "those Conservative calls for 'intervention' or 'more flexibility' or 'more competition' or a 'longer time scale'" for their failure to specify which financial or fiscal objective they would at best delay or at worst abandon. This failure they resemble Mr Callaghan who, in his recent *Panorama* interview, had jettisoned his Prime Ministerial commonsense for his Opposition Leader's irresponsibility.

Your arguments had, however, one notable piece of illogic in their dismissal of incomes policies. While it is true that the likelihood of securing trade union agreement to an incomes policy is at present rather slight, it is manifest that, since wages and salaries are 60 to 80 per cent of the cost of any service or product, pay increases not limited by technical efficiency or productivity must raise prices and so provide an internal stimulus to inflation aggravating that from external sources. Moderation in pay increases must, therefore, be sought as an essential part of the cure for inflation.

It is in the case, as you imply towards the end of your leader, that advocates of an incomes policy regard it as an alternative to a lower government deficit or to a lower rate of increase in money supply. Rather is it a necessary adjunct to those objectives.

Other countries more successful than our own, eg Germany and Japan, have an incomes policy though they may not name it or even recognize it as such. There, sensible attitudes towards pay increases prevail because of greater worker awareness of the connexion between wages and prices. Our Government must seek diligently to create such awareness here: awareness of the pay-prices connexion may well be easier to create than awareness of the pay-unemployment connexion with all its capriciousness in that pay increases for one group may bring employment for another.

They might start with an examination of the adverse effects direct on electricity prices and indirectly elsewhere, now starting to flow from the miners' 20 per cent pay increase with no increase in productivity. Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MUSTON,
37 Sandy Lane,
Petersham,
Richmond,
Surrey.
February 26.

From Mr J. M. Kellest

Sir, You are right to question the paradox in which the views of modern economists conflict with the policy of our Government and yourselves; but your conclusion based on a presumed lack of knowledge of economics in the moderates is as facile as it is incorrect. The technique of modern economics is to elevate a theory into a science, and to condemn criticism by maintaining that the critics do not understand the language.

The economic argument is simple. Inflation is the result of too much money chasing too few goods. One can correct this by reducing the supply of money or by increasing the production of goods. Different economists place more or less stress on one or other side of the coin, but there is no evidence that the moderate view of attempting to increase production, as well as controlling the supply of money, is wrong. Indeed the monetarist position by placing all the emphasis on money of the equation is doomed to failure.

Politics is essentially to do with the control of power, and the function of government is to maintain the maximum freedom of choice for individuals within society. Totalitarian systems err in exchanging

coercion by the individual for coercion by the state. Laissez faire policies err in allowing the strong to exploit the weak.

The present Government falls clearly into the second category. Powerful groups can demand and get what they want without suffering the consequences of unemployment. If, for example, by dint of bullying I control the final stage of production, such as printing, I can demand wage increases above the rate of inflation, which will be granted at the cost of journalists, advertisers, and the consumer. If I bankrupt the newspaper many will lose their jobs who have had no influence on my behaviour.

It is not enough for the Government to sit by and lecture the country on the consequences of its behaviour. This only creates an environment where the strong grow wealthy and the poor are squeezed, a recipe for social unrest which could force the government into a disastrous U-turn. Until we have a wages policy imposed upon us with a strength to control the strong, the Government will be like their Rhodesian High Commissioner, an emperor with no clothes. Yours faithfully,
J. M. KELLEST,
The Chalfet,
Mount Gardens, SE26.
February 26.

From Mr Simon Canamille

Sir, I was encouraged by your editorial yesterday (February 26). Apart from helping the good Conservative voters among your readership who otherwise have been tempted to follow the line taken by Lord Alport in your columns (February 21) and other senior Conservatives elsewhere.

This Government, like any other, deserves support not because it breaks a party label or inherits a party tradition but because its policies are seen to make sense: whether they are conceived in the spirit of Burke or Disraeli or Mr Harold Macmillan is irrelevant. It is at least arguable that in many essential respects the truest political ancestor of Mrs Thatcher is William Ewart Gladstone, whereas, perhaps not in quite the same respects, the truest political descendant of Disraeli is Sir Harold Wilson.

Some loyal Conservatives may find this somewhat laboured, independent and crosser of party lines, would have understood. Yours faithfully,
EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN,
Duns Tew Manor,
Oxford.
February 27.

From Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham (Labour)

Sir, Your editorial today (February 26) sees the division in Cabinet as between those who read the economics for fun as against those who read Professor Friedman for real. By implication you categorise your Monday's economists (Professors Frank Hahn and Robert Neild) as a couple of funsters.

Your argument reminds me of earlier times when both Denis Healey and the West German Minister of Finance, Hans Apel, desisted as silly-billies all those who disagreed at the time with the Healey-Apel brand of "monetarism".

The point is that in Margaret Thatcher Britain has for the first time in post-war years a Prime Minister who is actually a science graduate yet she insists upon economic policies more akin to fetishism than scientific understanding. Her monetarist doctrines are completely unsupported either by practical evidence or by theoretical analysis. What would Margaret Thatcher the chemistry student have said if one day in the laboratory her tutor had arrived with a box full of alchemy and proceeded to lecture about moon-chese. Yet the Cabinet's assumptions that money supply and inflation have a deeper interrelationship than occasional coincidence is just as absurd.

Nowadays the study of price inflation has become a science as much as chemistry or engineering. The facts are known. Believe it or not all the behaviourist elements conform to a diagnostic pattern simply because the market no longer influences prices. Indeed if that were not so, works accountants and

industrial economists would have an impossible task.

Price fixing in industry is really now back with the "cost plus" system of contracting. Manufacturers anything up to three years before. Even the variables are known to within a very small margin. Fifty-five per cent of British manufacture is multi-national anyway and for all these reasons prices these days seldom respond more than marginally to either monetarist or fiscal pressures.

One last point. Things like energy, housing, alcohol, tobacco and transport account for nearly half the price index. They are, in the main, regulated by the Treasury and the public sector. One hundred firms set the pace for the rest.

Surely, then, price regulation (against which wages can be freely bargained) and the planned allocation of national resources (which should include the ICI and the GEC as well as Leyland and BSC) is the proper way to deal with inflation, rather than crude Friedmanite butchery as proposed by those members of the Cabinet who seem to enjoy the confidence of your editorial writers.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN ATKINSON,
House of Commons,
February 26.

From Mr Edgar Palamountain

Sir, It is profoundly to be hoped that your editorial of February 26, has restored the faith of the many Conservative voters among your readership who otherwise have been tempted to follow the line taken by Lord Alport in your columns (February 21) and other senior Conservatives elsewhere.

This Government, like any other, deserves support not because it breaks a party label or inherits a party tradition but because its policies are seen to make sense: whether they are conceived in the spirit of Burke or Disraeli or Mr Harold Macmillan is irrelevant. It is at least arguable that in many essential respects the truest political ancestor of Mrs Thatcher is William Ewart Gladstone, whereas, perhaps not in quite the same respects, the truest political descendant of Disraeli is Sir Harold Wilson.

Some loyal Conservatives may find this somewhat laboured, independent and crosser of party lines, would have understood. Yours faithfully,
EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN,
Duns Tew Manor,
Oxford.
February 27.

From Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds (Conservative)

Sir, Here is one Conservative MP who thinks the Government is on the right lines; that its economic and industrial policies are the only ones that have any chance of helping the British people to rescue themselves from the decline of the past generation; that its social policies, for health, schools and housing, are directed to the right end; that its foreign policy is one of our need to cut public expenditure; that its foreign and defence posture is the most convincing we have had since the 1950s; and that its style, though occasionally marriage or public relations gaffs, is infinitely preferable to the flabby and dishonourable approach of its predecessor.

As for the Prime Minister, she is offering to Britain something it conspicuously has lacked in recent years—clear-cut and resolute leadership. She and her colleagues are tough, and they are; but to me and I am sure the overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the Parliamentary Party, Margaret Thatcher represents the best political hope our country has known for years.

Yours faithfully,
ELDON GRIFFITHS,
House of Commons,
February 27.

income of workers in different industries. Moreover the cost of inflation proofing will vary from time to time with different rates of inflation.

There must, therefore, be a strong case for an annual survey of the additional cost of pension provision among major employers in order that we can see what the value of wages are in different industries. Since it needs to be done on a systematic basis it might be desirable for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to collect and publish such information, and to act as a clearing house for changes in the cost of pension schemes to ACAS after each triennial valuation.

Yours faithfully,
ROY A. GRANTHAM,
General Secretary,
Association of Professional,
Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff,
22 Worple Road, SW19.

From those who work in it. The stark truth of the converse is plain to see. Yours faithfully,
RAMAN SUBBA ROW,
Leeward,
Major Way,
Croydon,
Surrey.
February 27.

From Professor Tien Ju-Kang

Sir, From at least the time of the Tang dynasty (618-907 AD), in the mountainous part of China from which I come, the custom is to boil a "brick" of tea together with some cheese and drink the infusion from a bowl. However, I have been converted by my wife, who comes from a coastal province, to sip the ritual made oolong tea from a very small cup. It is better than a liqueur and serves the same purpose.

I hope my explanation will allay the suspicion of my having been contaminated by alien culture and calm this storm in a teacup (February 26). Yours faithfully,
TIEN JU-KANG,
Clare Hall,
Herschel Road,
Cambridge.

An Immos plant at Bristol

From Mr Eric Varley, MP for Chertsey (Labour), and others

Sir, As the Ministers responsible for the National Enterprise Board, Immos and regional policy in the last Labour Government we regard it as important to place on record the commitment we received from the NEB that the Immos production units would be sited in Assisted Areas.

We were not convinced by the original proposal that the Immos Technology Centre should be established in Bristol. Ministers held a series of meetings with the Deputy Chairman and finally with the Chairman of NEB. We were assured that the site of the Technology Centre did not prejudice the choice of site for the production units.

These meetings Ministers were offered the guarantee that the production units would go to Assisted Areas if we acquiesced to the Bristol Technology Centre. A firm of consultants was to advise on the most suitable Assisted Area sites. Without this assurance Ministers at the Department of Industry would not have recommended to Ministers collectively that an Industrial Development Certificate be issued for the Bristol Centre.

We still believe that the full Immos project should go ahead. But we also believe that the firm commitment given by NEB should be honoured.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC VARLEY,
ALAN WILLIAMS,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons,
February 27.

London medical schools

From Dr F. B. Gibberd

Sir, The future of the medical schools in London may not appear to be of much importance to people in the United Kingdom. Yet there are many people directly affected by what happens in British Steel or British Leyland. However, they are very much involved indirectly, as the doctors trained, or the steel or cars produced, are subsidised and used by them. They should expect that in any reorganization the best is preserved.

In making suggestions for the reorganization of medical education in London, Lord Flowers and his colleagues (report of February 27) have made the same error as their predecessors in industry, and suggested larger but fewer units. Having been involved with several medical schools in London, I am convinced that the standard of teaching does not and will not improve if schools become larger. Westminster Medical School, the smallest in London, has had the best record in the final examinations, and spends a smaller proportion of its budget on administration than most other schools, yet it is the most threatened.

I hope that all those who support the attempt of small successful enterprises to survive against large institutions will see the error of Lord Flowers's views. Perhaps it is London University which is too big and needs to be subdivided, rather than its schools which need to be amalgamated. Yours faithfully,
F. B. GIBBERD,
Consultant Physician,
Westminster Hospital Medical School,
Horseferry Road, SW1.

From Dr M. K. Trevelyan Thomas

Sir, As by far the smallest of the London teaching hospitals it was inevitable that Westminster Medical School should become the target for closure. In the face of daily lessons from all walks of life that size does not count, Westminster is at present a living example of excellence that can be achieved by small units.

In contrast to the planners' opinion, from the students' point of view it is ideally situated. The central teaching hospital ensures a sound basic education for every individual and, via its numerous links with peripheral hospitals, provides a wide range of teaching and experience.

Reasons speak for themselves. Westminster Medical School has a higher pass rate, more honours per capita in the university finals, and more jobs for its graduates than any other London teaching hospital. As a recently qualified graduate of Westminster, I would like to add my voice in many others in condemning the Flowers report's suggestion. Yours faithfully,
NATE TREVELYAN THOMAS,
131 Westbourne Terrace, SW8,
February 26.

From Professor P. J. Scheuer

Sir, There is disappointingly little consideration in the Flowers report (February 27) of the effect of institution size on teaching. In teaching medical students, big is better and small is beautiful.

Recently the number of students taught in our department at any one time was halved as a result of curriculum changes. This brought high beneficial results, acclaimed both by students and by teachers.

We should surely not follow the example of British Leyland and the British Steel Corporation. Yours etc.,
PETER J. SCHEUER,
Professor of Clinical Histopathology,
The Royal Free Hospital,
Pond Street, NW3.
February 27.

From Mr J. R. Speirs

Sir, Your correspondent Robert Fisk says (February 25) "No one seems to buy any tickets" on the railway between Peshawar and Landi Kot. In the early days it was the custom to shoot the ticket collector (but not one's fellow passengers) on this stretch of line. In the days of the Raj, passenger revenue was negligible.

Yours,
J. R. SPEIRS,
Furse Bank,
19 Frenze Road,
Diss,
Norfolk.
February 26.

Changes in planning law

From Mr J. F. O. Switzer

Sir, Comment on the Local Government Planning and Land Bill now before Parliament has been mainly concerned with matters of local government finance. May I draw attention to the important changes which the Government propose to make in the planning system? At present, the control of development is in the hands of district councils except that county councils deal with what are known as "county matters". These include proposals for development which would conflict with the structure plan for the county or which would be inconsistent with any statement of planning policy adopted by the county council. Moreover, in any case where the county council considers that proposals for development would adversely affect their interests as local planning authority they may direct the district council to turn down the application.

These county council powers have been of the utmost importance in maintaining agreed planning policies. Often the very existence of

the power of direction has meant that it has not been necessary to use it. The new Bill proposes to abolish both the group of county matters to which it has referred and the county's power of direction.

The proposed changes would have grave consequences. They can best be illustrated by the case where a district council has proposed to grant consent for development which would have been contrary to the policies of the county plan, the policies the county has used its power to refuse consent, and where this refusal has subsequently been confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment on appeal. It is the Environment Secretary of State who has only become involved because the application was turned down; where an application is approved, there is no appeal and no public inquiry.

The proposed changes in the law would therefore to review a decision though it was contrary to a county structure plan which had been prepared at considerable cost, subjected to lengthy public consul-

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 469.1 up 8.7
FT Gilt 65.34 up 0.03

Sterling
\$2.2850 down 25 points
Index 73.1 down 0.1

Dollar
Index 86.1 unchanged

Gold
\$641.50 down \$1

Money
3-mth sterling 17.18
3-mth Euro-S 16.16
6-mth Euro-S 15.16

Bank rates raised by West Germans and Swiss to protect currencies

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 28

The West German and Swiss national banks today raised their key interest rates in an effort to catch up with market developments and to ensure that the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc remain "hard" currencies.

The German federal bank in Frankfurt announced an increase of one percentage point in its discount rate from 6 to 7 per cent, while the Lombard rate, which it lends to banks against collateral, was raised by 11 points to 8.5 per cent.

In Zurich the Swiss national bank raised bank rate to 3 per cent from 2 per cent and Lombard rate to 4 from 3 per cent. At the same time as raising their lending rates the monetary authorities in Germany took steps to ensure that the commercial banking system will be able to supply the credit needs of the economy.

Commercial bank discount rates are being raised by DM4,000 million (£1,002m) from next Monday while quantitative restrictions on their access to Lombard credit are being removed.

Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, president of the German federal bank, told a press conference in Frankfurt that today's increases in interest rates had been dictated primarily by international considerations. He said increases in money market and central bank interest rates throughout the world, and particularly in the United States and other European countries, had widened the gap between the return obtainable on marks and other currencies.

The result had been a considerable outflow of funds from Germany in recent weeks, which had to be met by the Bundesbank in the region of DM15,000 million since the beginning of this year.

Herr Pöhl said that West Germany was so integrated into the world's economic system that it could not escape the effects of a worldwide escalation of interest rates. He said today's decisions should also be taken as a signal to the German public as well as people abroad that the federal bank was committed to a policy of monetary stability and maintaining the mark as a hard currency.

The currency markets are also being tested by conflicting reports on the economic outlook. There is considerable scepticism that the Treasury will be on target account deficit this year will be modest.

On the inflation front the latest signals are far from encouraging. Conversations with several bankers have not produced any forecast of a decline in the prevailing double-digit rates. Meanwhile, the latest forecast by Chase Econometrics Associates says the annual rate of consumer price advances will be 15 per cent and that "we cannot look for inflation to fall

below 10 per cent later this year and next".

A critical factor for the currency markets is the trend of interest rates in the rest of the world. The German bank rate caused some concern today, with some traders suggesting that United States rates will have to rise again soon to maintain a differentials with the mark. The Federal Reserve has said it will maintain its policy of holding their current positions.

Mr Larry Shotwell, the chief economist of the Commercial Credit Corporation, said he would not be surprised to see the Federal Reserve raise its rate to maintain its money supply growth targets, and that Fed might well accommodate the rising credit demands being seen.

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Campaign brings better sales for BL

By Edward Townsend

BL's "Buy British" campaign appears to be succeeding, with sales this month climbing to over 17 per cent of the market and hopes of a 20 per cent share in March.

Private sales figures to Wednesday, now circulating within the industry, show that BL has pulled back some of the ground lost in January when the company sold a record low market share of 15 per cent. The month's rise is over 2 per cent, and BL is hoping that the impact of its advertising campaign will add another 3 per cent in March.

Despite predictions of a slump in car sales in the United Kingdom this year, registrations have continued to rise above last year's levels for the second month in succession. Sales in February 1979, with over 130,000, more than eight per cent higher than a year earlier.

Significantly, the share of February's market taken by Ford models imported from European plants is thought to have matched BL's total penetration. Ford's total share, however, is believed to have fallen from its high level of 37.5 per cent recorded in January.

The 27-day figure for imports indicates that the record penetration of 59.45 per cent in January is beginning to slide. Foreign cars took just over 57 per cent of sales, with the European manufacturers continuing to exert the greatest pressure. Renault's market share is believed to have risen to nearly 7 per cent.

The Japanese share, however, still is not regaining the 10 to 11 per cent mark regarded as the upper limit in the voluntary restriction on United Kingdom sales which Japanese manufacturers have agreed to extend for a further year. A February share of about 8.7 per cent is slightly up on last month's figure and similar to the 8.7 per cent achieved in January, 1979.

Datsun, the leading Japanese importer, has been unable to satisfy demand because of restrictions in its supplier. Its February market share is little over 4 per cent.

The car-buying boom of last year led to total United Kingdom sales of 1.71 million, beating the previous peak achieved in 1973 by 3 per cent, and the February figures indicate that the trend is continuing, at least for the moment.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders forecasts that the 1980 market will be down to as low as 1.45 million, and some observers are suggesting a final sales total of 1.3 million. The present resilience of the market is thought by some to reflect uncertainties about inflation and the effect on new car prices later in the year, and present widespread discounting by dealers.

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Footwear imports 'put 6,000 jobs at risk'

By Derek Harris,
Commercial Editor

Up to 6,000 jobs in the already hard-hit footwear industry could be at risk unless there is action by the Government, according to a report from the British Footwear Manufacturers' Association.

The report, which was presented to a meeting of the House of Commons yesterday, says that the industry has lost 15 per cent of its workforce since 1973, and that a further 10 per cent could be lost if the current rate of imports continues.

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Vickers and Hawker Siddeley in £73m deals with foreign groups

By Our Financial Staff

Two leading British engineering companies disclosed deals with foreign groups yesterday. Vickers is selling a substantial part of its Roneo-Vickers business to a French concern to raise £50m. Hawker Siddeley, cash-rich partly because of the £60m it received in compensation for the nationalisation of its aerospace assets 18 months ago, is prepared to pay £43.3m for an American small electric motors business, Fasco Industries.

Ironically, Vickers is one of the companies still locked in negotiations with the Government over compensation terms for its aerospace and shipbuilding interests.

Hawker, already heavily involved in electric motor manufacture in this country, is offering cash for Fasco whose profits last year were around £6.5m and which has book assets of nearly £17m. This is all subject to agreement by authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, but if successful would broaden Hawker's electric motors for use in a wide variety of consumer and commercial products. Fasco has three plants, one in Missouri and two in North Carolina, and employs about 3,150 people.

Vickers is selling the Roneo-Vickers and mail room divisions of its Roneo-Vickers operations to CIT-Alcatel, a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale d'Electricité. The businesses to be acquired at present employ 2,500 people in the United Kingdom, mainly at the group's Romford factory, nearly 500 in German and Holland and a further 1,000 in sale and distribution companies throughout the world.

After the deal Vickers will retain its office furniture businesses in the United Kingdom and France as well as Roneo-Vickers Business Forms and Roneo-Vickers Editions. A spokesman for the British group said last night that the deal had resulted from an approach by CIT-Alcatel, which is a world leader in digital switching technology and a major force in the new technology office business systems.

The spokesman admitted that cash pressures at Vickers had made it difficult for the group to give the divisions sufficient investment support to enable them to compete in a fast advancing technological market.

Nearly three years after its shipbuilding and aerospace interests—mainly a 50 per cent stake in British Aircraft Corporation—were nationalized, Vickers is still wrangling with the Government over compensation terms. The group has so far received only £23.3m by way of payment on account and offers from the Government have fallen a long way short of the £200m value placed on BAC by its former joint owners, Vickers and GEC.

News of the deal yesterday pushed Vickers shares up 19p to 144p.

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US owned textile mill fails in Ulster

The flood of cheap American yarn and fabric imports into the United Kingdom has killed the American-owned Ballymore Manufacturing Co. in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, with the loss of 260 jobs.

Opened in 1967, the factory was the first new complete cotton spinning mill in the United Kingdom for many years.

It had been heavily hit by the decline in British car manufacturing, and a consequent fall in the demand for upholstery and trimming cloth.

Last year the firm began an investment programme to switch to almost completely into clothing yarns, but now that market has also largely disappeared. It is unlikely that a buyer for the business will be found.

The closure comes after Mr Stanley Craig, Courtauld general manager, said that the quotas to be applied by the Government against cheap United States yarn imports would be of no value whatsoever.

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US inflation doubts unsettle markets

From Frank Vogl
United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Feb 28

The distinct prospect of fresh anti-inflation action by the White House is just one of a multitude of factors now fuelling uncertainty in the currency markets and causing uncertainty about the dollar.

The administration is considering credit controls, but these could be applied only with the consent of the Federal Reserve Board which does not appear to favour them. Prospects for Budget cuts are increased now that 42 senators have signed a joint resolution favouring a \$26,000m cut in 1981 public spending programme.

The currency markets are also being tested by conflicting reports on the economic outlook. There is considerable scepticism that the Treasury will be on target account deficit this year will be modest.

On the inflation front the latest signals are far from encouraging. Conversations with several bankers have not produced any forecast of a decline in the prevailing double-digit rates. Meanwhile, the latest forecast by Chase Econometrics Associates says the annual rate of consumer price advances will be 15 per cent and that "we cannot look for inflation to fall

below 10 per cent later this year and next".

A critical factor for the currency markets is the trend of interest rates in the rest of the world. The German bank rate caused some concern today, with some traders suggesting that United States rates will have to rise again soon to maintain a differentials with the mark. The Federal Reserve has said it will maintain its policy of holding their current positions.

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below 10 per cent later this year and next".

EEC warning on steel trade war

Continued from page 1

A slide into protectionism and a trade war would gravely undermine the already tottering European steel industry. About half of the 5 million tonnes of steel shipments to America this year would be affected at a cost of £400m. Further curbs and reductions would be inevitable.

Appealing for the American steel companies to hold back their action Viscount Davignon said that otherwise much of the progress made in the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations would be placed in jeopardy, affecting 60 per cent of trade.

Later, the industry commissioner admitted that he was "very worried and very concerned" by such a prospect, and added that he had deliberately taken great care to underline the gravity of the consequences for world trade. It was important to avoid confrontation of this kind.

Moves to pursue anti-dumping action despite the consequences are being led by the US Steel Corporation, along with a number of other American steel companies. Senior officials from companies involved today reaffirmed their commitment to restoring the strength of the American steel industry by bearing back the share of their home market held by foreign producers.

Mr Lewis Foy, chairman of Bethlehem Steel and chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute, said: "It must be understood that our steel industry is presently suffering from the cumulative injury resulting from years of dumped and subsidized steel imports. Our programme requires assurance that American producers will be able to recover from these injuries."

Mr Foy stressed that American steel companies were not prepared to "acquiesce passively to gradual liquidation". They would take whatever steps were necessary to defend their legitimate interests.

"We have urged our Government to limit the disruption of our domestic market by dumped and subsidized imports by aggressively enforcing our trade laws. My company and others state that they are prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to achieve this objective", he declared.

The issue has already seen a hectic round of high level diplomatic discussions over the last three weeks in an attempt to reach an agreement which would satisfy steel producers in both Europe and the United States. But feelings are running high, not only about the anti-dumping action now threatened by the American steel industry, but also over operation of America's "price mechanism," a spokesman claimed had heavily penalized Community export levels already.

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Cheerless prospects, page 18

ICI's figures spur market

By Ronald Pullen

Favourable results from Imperial Chemical Industries spurred shares decisively ahead yesterday after a week of inaction. The Financial Times ordinary share index closed 8.7 points higher at 469.1.

ICI's 1979 results were a little better than expected, showing an increase from £42m to £56m after exchange losses of £34m compared with £33m the year before.

The major boost to the company's performance came from the North Sea, which transformed the previous year's £16m loss in the group's oil business into a profit of £79m after deducting revenue tax payments of £22m.

Group sales for the year increased by 18 per cent to £5,368m with United Kingdom sales up £432m to £2,232m and overseas sales 403m higher at £3,136m.

The year began badly for ICI as a result of the road haulage dispute, but sales and profits rose strongly in the second quarter.

ICI reports that, although selling prices were raised during the year, increases were not enough to cover the rise in costs, and the group had been especially hard hit by the rise in naphtha prices, the main feedstock for many of its chemical products.

While ICI has had a surprisingly good year in petrochemicals, plastics and agricultural goods, it continues to be dogged by problems in its fibres operations where much heavier losses than the £13m in 1978 have been sustained.

Looking to recover its accounts, ICI estimates that current cost accounts would reduce its profits by £373m against £198m the year before.

Despite uncertainties about trading in the current year, ICI shares gained 10p to 400p yesterday helped by a better than expected increase in the dividend which goes up almost a fifth to 32.9p share gross.

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Mr Alfred Singer: Vital to support BL

BL vehicle finance makes £2m

By Edward Townsend

Wholesale Vehicle Finance, the subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board established a year ago with the help of City institutions to finance stock held by BL car and van distributors in the United Kingdom, made an operating profit of just over £2m for the year.

The company's first set of accounts published yesterday show that after interest on subordinated convertible unsecured loan stock of £425,000, preliminary expenses of £135,000 and executive remuneration of £77,000, disposable profit was £1,317,000.

WVF, which marked a new link between the NEB and the City, began with £100m of capital. Its aim is to assume the stock financing commitments of BL dealers thereby releasing funds tied up on the showroom floors.

During the year, almost all of BL's 700 car and van distributors joined the WVF scheme, and Mr Alfred Singer, the chairman, said in his annual statement that the preparation of £112m were lodged with BL Cars, releasing to distributors about £60m previously held as stock deposits.

Mr Singer, a former head of the Post Office Giro operation and the Post Office Giro Superannuation Fund, remarked that 1979 was a difficult year for BL and WVF "has a vital part to play in support of funding field stocks which are essential to the maximization of sales". He believed that "commitment to the support of BL in this way is vital to the national interest".

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Bracken Mines 40c to 52c
Dunlop Tyres 50c to 55c
Electric Gold 52c to 55c
Groundnut 52c to 55c
Meads Explorer 6p to 62p

Falls
Africa 1 1/2 to 1 3/4
Asia 3 1/2 to 3 3/4
Cement Int 1 1/2 to 1 3/4
Crisis Britain 1 1/2 to 1 3/4
Lime & Gypsum 7p to 45p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.52	2.52	2.52	2.52
Belgium	2.52	2.52	2.52	2.52
Canada	2.52	2.52	2.52	2.52
Denmark	2.52	2.52	2.52	2.52
France	2.52	2.52		

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

ICI gains from Ninian

The European chemical industry has seen very little of the slowdown anticipated in 1979 and that continues to be broadly the message from ICI's fourth-quarter figures. Volume overall rose 61 per cent in the final period although with the United Kingdom only 1 per cent up it was the 21 per cent increase in continental Europe that was the driving force.

But the usual seasonal period in October and November did not come through quite as strongly as expected and stripping out exchange losses of £5m from the fourth quarter and a £30m contribution from oil the period could have been as much as a fifth down on the third quarter.

Margins, too, have continued to narrow in the final quarter although with the easing of naphtha prices so far this year cost pressures here should ease although it remains to be seen whether ICI can get through price increases. And with sterling remaining at current high levels ICI's competitiveness is coming under increasing strain particularly with the flood of United States imports now hitting the home market.

As it is fourth-quarter profits of £150m before exchange losses takes the full year up to £594m before a £34m exchange loss and was in line with stockmarket expectations.

But it is clear that oil, and especially Ninian's contribution, is becoming increasingly important for ICI and that accounted for £79m of last year's profits. A further

acceptable offer on compensation for its 50 per cent stake in BAC. That was enough for the market, which still has some faith in reasonable compensation terms being agreed, and the shares put up 19p at 144p. At this level, however, they still yield close on 10 per cent historically and even a maintained payment this year is in doubt.

In spite of having received £28.5m on account for its nationalized activities, Vickers net borrowings of £86m last May represented close on 60 per cent of shareholders' funds and are certain to have risen sharply in the latter half of last year as the group began to spend heavily on its litho printing activities.

Meanwhile, profits due to be reported in April are bound to be hard hit by the engineering strike. A 23 per cent interim jump to £6.2m was due entirely to £3m loss elimination after the withdrawal from off-shore engineering.

Given that the office equipment assets concerned returned only £1.3m last year a sale for £30m—or something like an exit p/e ratio of 48—looks like a superb deal especially given that the activities also accounted for more than £10m of the overall borrowing requirement. The sad point, however, is that the low return was precisely due to the fact that Vickers could not afford to put in the cash to take the operations into the new-technology market-place. To the French buyers the distribution network alone could be worth the investment.

The deal will free more cash for Vickers to spend on the remaining Roneo-Vickers hardware side, while giving further flexibility for diversification moves. But ultimate hopes still rest on the total compensation payment for BAC and less importantly shipbuilding.

However, Vickers has already opted for the lengthy process of arbitration on shipbuilding and it may only be a matter of time before talk on BAC goes the same way. So for the time being talk of eventual compensation in the range of £80m to £150m compared with a current market capitalization of only £63m is merely speculative and the shares reflect the gamble.

Hawker Siddeley Buying from the Americans

Meanwhile, Hawker Siddeley, which settled with the Government 18 months ago on compensation for its aerospace business at £60m, is buying again. This time it is in the United States where Hawker is offering £43.8m in cash for Pasco, a privately-owned maker of fractional horsepower electric motors. If successful this will effectively double Hawker's United States asset base to around £70m and give it a 10 to 15 per cent share of the United States market for small motors.

Hawker's philosophy since aerospace nationalization has been to redeploy its resources into the electrical and mechanical engineering business it knows well. Hence Pasco which would fit well with its existing fractional horsepower electric motor business in this country and before this the acquisition of Gardner, Carlton and Industries (which in fact seemed to produce a few loose ends such as housebuilding and whisky) and most recently Westinghouse Brakes & Signal. On top of this there are strategic stakes in companies like Fenner.

Despite the spending programme, Hawker is still cash rich; even after Westinghouse it still held cash of around £90m and has large bank resources if it wants to use them.

It is unclear yet exactly how Pasco would be financed, but Hawker apparently has adequate dollar resources which it can deploy if it wishes.

The only snag, then, is that Hawker's profits performance is going through a dull patch, not surprisingly, perhaps, in view of the problems afflicting the engineering sector. But there seems little doubt that its acquisition programme thus far has been sound, and little doubt that it is a fundamentally strong business when conditions start to improve. A share to hold onto, then, at 190p, up 14p yesterday, despite the growth rate p/e ratio of around seven and a half and an historic yield of 5.6 per cent.

Cigarette advertising: a warning shot from the Irish

Dublin

There was a time when Britain's advertising industry traditionally looked west to America for ideas and inspiration. But for the moment, the seekers of advertising are turning their gaze on Dublin, wondering if this is the future, how will it work?

On the first of this month outdoor cigarette advertising became illegal here. Advertising revenue disappeared overnight, leaving Dublin adorned with hundreds of blank hoardings and the poster sector short of £2.2m a year and around 40 per cent of its revenue.

The manufacturers are confident that it will have no effect on sales and as one Dublin advertising man put it "nearly all the poster people are English owned anyway so it is not as if the Irish are really suffering."

But why is this happening in Dublin? Is it a marketing director's nightmare come true? A government has stepped in and taken a very real hold over the promotion of a popular, valuable and highly competitive market.

The government may now specify to the last penny how much, or how little, Irish tobacco companies may spend on advertising and where. These moves come, not from a socialist administration acting out of misanthropic zeal, but from a party sympathetic to the private enterprise philosophy and committed to its success.

The lessons for Britain's tobacco companies, for which the voluntary code of advertising practice runs out at the end of March, is clear. Ominously enough they have been warned that statutory measures will follow if a voluntary agreement on new restrictions is not forthcoming. As were their Irish counterparts.

That warning was given to the Irish tobacco marketing men in 1978 and according to some they failed to take it seriously. The

industry had agreed voluntarily to curb on television, radio, and cinema advertising and the content of press advertisements, much along the voluntary lines of the British companies.

Mr. Haughey, the then Minister for Health, and now Taoiseach, demanded further restrictions, and when he did not receive agreement on them unveiled a draft Bill with sweeping powers to control marketing.

A large part of that Bill went by the board because it was inoperative. Its conditions would have applied as much to foreign publications as to those based in the Republic, leaving virtually all the highly popular United Kingdom papers and magazines imported through Dublin in breach of the law.

The Bill, which became law, and notably on P. L. Carroll, the long established Irish tobacco manufacturer a quarter owned by Rothmans which has 51 per cent of the domestic cigarette market.

With 44 per cent of the market going to Carroll's purely domestic brands of Number One and Major, the company received no benefit at all from the imported advertising as do brands such as Benson and Hedges.

Carroll's bore the brunt of the poster ban and, like the other companies, has seen its sponsorship funds frozen to their existing levels. These went primarily on greyhound racing and golf tournaments which have lost to Ireland becoming a popular venue on the international golfing circuit.

Whether they will remain attracted to tournaments where the prize fee has been permanently fixed at its 1979 level, remains to be seen. If these are the only two areas which the government has seen fit to use from the enabling legislation which the Bill passed last year.

The reaction of the tobacco firms was sudden and explosive. The funds which were destined

for poster campaigns were rerouted to the press, mainly the colour magazines. The poster advertisers, meanwhile, which are only now beginning to feel the full brunt of the ban, are preparing for a legal action to test the constitutionality of the ban.

Their case will rest on the claim that it is unconstitutional to single out one sector of the advertising industry for such a measure. In reality the poster firms are resigned to the fact that cigarette advertisements have gone for good. Even if a court hearing did give them a reprieve, it is unlikely that the tobacco companies would risk the opprobrium of the government by returning to the medium.

What concerns the poster firms more than past defeats is the future. The Dail has shown itself ready to act on health issues and is now locally expected to attack the alcohol market.

Ironically enough government posters calling on the public to pay more attention to health issues are the sole growth area in the poster sector these days. They are backed up by a campaign featuring what appears to be a smoking man in a free anti-smoking kit in an imitation cigarette packet.

The future for the tobacco companies seems sure to include further controls. As the government's request they have submitted details of past advertising expenditure, a move which some see as a forerunner to formal limits on campaign advertising. There is also suspicion that sponsorship may be banned completely.

Dublin's tobacco marketing men feel that they are merely in the vanguard of advertising restrictions and are certain that such measures were on the way in Britain. Attitudes to the sector have changed not because of some ideological antipathy towards marketing itself but through a growing concern



A poster for Conquest, the free anti-smoking kit in an imitation cigarette packet, dominates a Dublin street corner.

about the effects of smoking on health.

What is perhaps surprising in Dublin is that the government's ban is seen more as a nuisance than an economic threat. For the advertising agencies a restricted market means that their skills will be needed more than ever.

The tobacco companies are still experiencing a slow increase in sales.

Advertising for them genuinely represents a way of maintaining brand share in a sector dominated by a handful of large operators. No one seriously believes that the absence of tobacco advertisements from the walls of the Irish Republic will reduce the consumption of cigarettes.

The criticism of advertising controls from both inside and

outside the industry is that they will not succeed in their purpose. If advertising was banned completely, smoking would still continue at a level unacceptable to a health conscious government, or so the argument runs.

In the final judgment there is only one thing which makes a tobacco marketing team glance anxiously at its sales figures. That was admirably summed up in a front page cartoon of the Irish Times before Wednesday's budget which said: "Well I reckon he'll be able to balance the budget if he increases duty to 70p a pack."

In the event, the Irish Minister of Finance did not go quite that far, but far enough. He raised the price of 20 cigarettes from 55p to 65p.

David Hewson

Technology

Lengthening the life of the popular car

In recent years the average life of a motor car in Britain has dropped from 15 to about 10 years, while in the United States it has remained constant, and in Sweden it has increased. One might therefore assume the durability of today's car in this country is lower than yesterday's.

This assumption is a myth, according to research performed at Loughborough University and analysed by Mr John D. Davis, consultant to the Intermediate Technology Development Group. Durability is not the problem. He says that the useful life of modern cars in Britain can be increased from 10 to 20 years without any fundamental design change affecting durability.

But, even if the long-life car is feasible as a product, is it desirable, economic or practical? Would it not make things harder for the car-makers? How much would it cost? Would it appeal to the car-buying public? Or might a television-rental type of approach to car leasing prove attractive?

It is useful, and depressing, to remind ourselves at the start that the main reason cars are scrapped is not that they wear out, but that they collide with other cars. The influence of accidents becomes greater as the life of cars increases. This and economics point to 20 years as

a realistic target for a long-life, popular-model car which could be introduced relatively soon. To aim for a longer period would not be realistic.

It will come as no surprise to car owners that the most important engineering factor affecting car life is corrosion—of bodywork in general, and of critical parts of the structure. In particular, the routine statutory tests of cars in Sweden are stricter than those in the United Kingdom, and require that signs of deterioration be rectified, by catching corrosion early this could well be one reason why average car lives in Sweden have risen while those in Britain have dropped.

Rust-proofing methods are available which can delay by about five years the onset of corrosion. A second application of a high standard of regular inspection and maintenance throughout the life of the car, could give the desired 10-year extension in average life.

In trying to estimate how the cost of motoring would be affected by the introduction of longer-life cars, the main factors are the extra money to be paid for the more-durable car; the increase in life; and any change in the annual cost of maintenance, replacement and repairs.

Mr Davis's research shows, there will be some overall sav-

ing in motoring costs if car life is increased from 10 to 20 years, providing the annual maintenance cost increment does not exceed 20 per cent and the new price premium is not more than 20 per cent.

This latter point implies a car made from hot-dipped galvanized steel and not from aluminium (for which the premium would be about 30 per cent).

A general overall conclusion from detailed calculations is that the extension of the average life of a car has a surprisingly small effect in reducing motoring costs. Much of the gain from the longer depreciation is lost through higher interest charges and higher maintenance costs.

Within the limits of known technology for increasing durability, Mr Davis says, "it would appear that any basically radical approach, such as hot-dipped galvanized steel or aluminium bodywork, aimed at increasing intrinsic durability, would yield less than five per cent saving in annual motoring costs."

Consequently, in the popular car range, there is little incentive from annual savings to offset the marketing problem of a higher-first-cost product. At the same time, providing other justifications can be found for introducing longer-life cars and appropriate commercial means can be developed, annual motoring cost increases should not have to be suffered.

At present, most cars are resold within the first three years having been driven for about 60,000 miles or less. Leasing has largely replaced hire purchase and outright purchase in the acquisition of company cars, but little if any financial advantages to offer to the private owner.

A basic problem in marketing a long-life car is that longevity itself is not something for which most people are willing to pay a premium, and genuine

durability inevitably costs more than the standard product.

"One is driven to conclude that there is at present, in the context of direct purchase, no way that a long-life version of a popular car can be achieved", Mr Davis says. "The only possible prospect must lie in the direction of a marketing system in which the disadvantage of an initial high first cost is disguised."

Such a marketing system might be a leasing operation which, extending over perhaps 15 years of the 20-year-life, would include maintenance and repairs. This does not mean that individuals would sign 15-year contracts; changes at two-year or three-year intervals are envisaged.

But, even if leasing companies wished to move in this direction, they would not initially be able to give car manufacturers a sufficient incentive to produce a genuinely long-life car. There is a high design and development price to pay, which could be justified only if all the output were to be sold via leasing companies.

Mr Davis proposes an intermediate solution. "There is a good prospect that the application of existing protective treatments, such as the Ziebart system, combined with a strict maintenance and repair schedule throughout a 15-year leasing period, could provide the means of pioneering a viable approach to long-life cars without fundamental changes in car design and manufacture or changes in the legislative framework."

The parallel to this idea of widespread car leasing is the television rental business. Unlike a television set, a car is vulnerable to bad treatment and neglect by the driver, and so long-life cars would not be leased to multi-driver fleets. Annual costs of maintenance and repairs above a set level

would be borne by the drivers, and an annual mileage above an agreed figure could incur surcharge.

The aim of the Loughborough study was to identify the most promising route towards the adoption of long-life cars without recourse to legislative changes such as stiffening the MOT test. As outlined, the conclusion is that the average life of existing production cars could be doubled through a leasing-for-life system, in which regular strict maintenance would be under the control of the leasing company.

At present, leasing is almost entirely limited to new business cars for the first three years of use, after which they pass into the pool of second-hand, privately owned cars. The suggestion now is that they should continue to be leased, and maintained by the leasing company, as they changed hands throughout their useful life, with leasing rates reducing as the cars grow older.

Clearly the long-life car would contribute to the conservation of materials and energy, as discussed on this page on February 1. It would presumably also mean reductions in the numbers—in the car manufacturing industry, if adopted on any large scale. This loss of jobs, Mr Davis argues, would be compensated for by an equivalent increase in employment in servicing, repair and reconditioning.

But would the car-buying (or car-leasing) public welcome the appearance of the long-life car? Personal preferences would not have to change radically; in principle there is no reason that people should not change cars as frequently as they do now. The implication is not that individuals will retain the same car for 20 years—but they could if they so desired.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Grapes of wrath • Computer match

A mystery, British firm has just bought a desirable little vineyard in the north west corner of the Var department of France and in doing so has become anything but the toast of the region.

The vineyard, just outside the ancient town of Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, is of about 250 acres, although less than half is actually under vine.

But this Domaine de Vignobles is called—is a bit different. Its owner, Georges Brunet, learnt all about the trade deep in the claret country round Bordeaux. He sold up his Bordeaux interests a few years ago and moved to the warmer countryside of the Var, bringing all his claret training with him.

He brought with him Cabernet Sauvignon grapes which, unlike the quickly consumable Medoc-type which improves with age.

Local vintners are furious. First because another vineyard has slipped out of French control. Five years ago when the Var was taken, a tenth of the vineyards round Saint-Tropez due to the south were in foreign hands.

Secondly, and far more importantly, they mean that the British company has paid three times over the going price for the land, and could price locals out of the market in time.

The Brits must be happy at having got a high quality Medoc vineyard for less than £3m, well below the going price in Bordeaux. But Brunet must be happiest of the lot. With all that money in his pocket he is being kept on by the new owners.

It could not have worked better if they had come together through a computer dating agency. David Fairbairn (right) and the National Computing Centre met, the liking was mutual and now they're going steady.

He was director of marketing for EMI Medical, selling EMI body-scanners in world markets other than United States. The company was taking a hiding from the scanner in the United States and moreover, was being stalked by Thorn.

NCC had lost its director, David Fairbairn, who on completion of his contract to the



end of last year left to manage Urwick, Nexon, an office systems consultancy venture, by Urwick Orr and the NCC.

• The code of practice committee of the Association of Viewers and Listeners (AVL) yesterday had a two hour session polishing their complaints procedure in view of the controversy about the "dirty book" offered on Prestel by guidance offered on Prestel by the publishers, Mills and Allen.

They were without the man who has hitherto been their chairman, Richard Hooper, managing director of Mills and Allen and director-designate of Prestel.

In the event their complaints procedure did not get its first run, though. None of the AVL members at the National Viewers and Listeners Association meeting, however, complained about the pornography guide having actually complained to them yet.

Diamonds aren't only a girl's best friend. Zale Corp of Dallas, Texas, says it has granted an option to buy the Light of Peace diamond. Zale bought an 130.2-carat gem in 1969 as an investment. If the sale goes through Zale will have gained about \$6m net.

• Cosmos, Britain's second largest tour operator, is on the point of announcing a package holiday taking in both Israel and Egypt. Richard H. has been possible to travel between Tel Aviv and Cairo only by making a circuitous trip through Athens or Amman.

On Monday, the Israeli airline El Al will begin a twice-weekly flight between the two airports and a new Egyptian company is due to start a similar operation.

Cosmos's managing director Sidney Silver is convinced that the two-centre tour will be a success. "It's got modern facilities and history—we're very impressed," he says.

Yesterday the company and two smaller agencies signed a £5m deal with Monarch Airlines for a daily charter service. Some tours involve crossing the border by coach, a mode not yet covered by the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. However, negotiations are under way as both countries want tourists.

Fairbairn had six years with ICI before joining EMI. The NCC which helps organisations make better use of computers, used to be financed by grant-in-aid but wisely elected to become self-supporting during Fairbairn's day.

In fact, about a fifth of the centre's income still comes from government sources but in the form of contracts the NCC wins. The rest comes from subscriptions of the 2,000 members and from publications or conferences.

I do hope Fairbairn calls me the day the NCC gets its first contract from Thorn-EMI.

• The mainstay of the British publishing industry, the vet, goes from strength to strength. To the mountain of winsome autobiography of James Herriot, is added a biography of a vet.

This is The Several Lives of a Victorian Vet by Jean Ware and her husband Hugh Hunt. The book is claimed by the publishers to be the first biography of a British vet, and is about Griffith Evans, Miss Ware's grandfather and, moreover, a grandfather who knew Lloyd George.

Evans, who died aged 100 in 1935, isolated the parasite trypanosome which can cause sleeping sickness. He also visited President Lincoln in the White House where he had the temerity to praise General Lee.

Miss Ware started the book on inheriting an old oak chest full of the old boy's memorabilia. What next with vets? I predict a volume of verse by vets: there are already a couple of anthologies by doctor-poets. "Bachman & Turner (£6.95).

Two unwontedly bright patches on the carpet under my feet are the result of a visit by Alan Brazier who has been touring Fleet Street with his Vox Valet, a domestic water extraction cleaner he has designed. Alan, by-product of an interesting findings on the relative muckiness of the offices in which the hacks toil.

It is with male chauvinist pride that I report that, while The Times's deeply depressed pile turned the water in Brazier's machine to lumpy filthiness, the grottiest he encountered was in the offices of Women's Realm. The Ladies there had bought a rug to hide their shame.

Runners-up were Good Housekeeping, who now have the embarrassment of knowing that the area in front of the coffee machine, where they let their dregs drip, is the only clean spot in the office.

And to Family Circle goes the award for most chaotic work area. Standards generally, Brazier reports, were satisfactorily challenging to a machine that has just been given the best new product award for this year's Ideal Home Exhibition.

Workers in France as well as South Wales have thumbed their noses at their unions. Sixty workers have staged a one-hour strike at a hosiery factory in Epinal, eastern France, because the official Labour Inspectorate refuses to allow 11 union representatives to be made redundant as recommended by the company's receivers.

Ross Davies

Bullough

- * Profit before tax rose 9% to £5.4 million.
- * Dividend increased by 40% covered 4.0 times.
- * Assets per share 215p.

Audited Results to 31st October

	1976	1977	1978	1979
Sales (£m)	22.2	29.2	40.0	47.1
Pre-tax profit (£m)	2.1	3.0	4.9	5.4
Dividend per share (p)	5.0	5.6	7.7	10.7

Bullough Limited is the holding company for Project Office Furniture, Beantalk Shelving, B & B Trailers and other light and electrical engineering companies. Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, 85 East Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1ED.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

Lockheed sees delay in profitability for TriStar

A spokesman for Lockheed Corporation of California says that Mr Roy A. Anderson, Lockheed chairman told a group of Aerospace industry analysts that the company expects a year's delay in the financial recovery on its TriStar commercial aircraft programme.

Earlier another spokesman said that Lockheed did not know of any reason for the drop in the price of its stock on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr Anderson is understood to have told the analysts that it "looks more like 1982 instead of 1981" for the TriStar programme to show a current year profit rather than be a drain on earnings as at present.

Mr Anderson added that there will also be some near-term impacts on earnings of higher interest rates because Lockheed's high level of business will cause a higher level of borrowing.

He also said that Lockheed is making "real progress" on the material and labour shortages relating to its TriStar programme but has yet to get the situation where it belongs.

He thought that Lockheed would start to make some significant inroads on the shortage problem about April or May.

IBM spending

International Business Machines Corporation of New York says that it will increase its capital expenditures to continue at high levels in the months ahead, senior vice-president Mr Paul J. Rizzo told financial analysts.

He said IBM's 1979 capital investments of \$6bn (about £2.6bn) represented a 46 per cent increase over 1978 and 76 per cent over 1977. He did not project what the figure would be for 1980.

Mr Rizzo said the biggest single use of capital funds in 1979 was for the financing of rental equipment. This expenditure grew from \$2.7bn in 1978 to \$4.2bn in 1979.

Mitsubishi Corp

Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan says that it will increase its capital by 10 per cent to \$53bn through a one-for-10 bonus share issue to shareholders at the end of March.

Mitsubishi said its profit before tax and special items for the current year ending next month will probably total 40bn yen on sales of 11.72 trillion yen, compared with 38.16bn and 8.84 trillion last year.

Ferodo name change

Car components manufacturer Safran of France said it is seeking shareholders' approval to change its name to Valeo.

Ferodo competes with Valeo of Britain, originally its parent company.

Flat-Peugeot deal

Vice-president of Fiat SpA, Buenos Aires, Signor Umberto Agnelli is expected to announce the merger of its local subsidiary Fiat Concord SA with Safran Peugeot SA, the Argentine subsidiary of PSA Peugeot-Citroen SA.

A Fiat Concord spokesman declined to comment on the reports other than to confirm the presence of Signor Agnelli in Buenos Aires.

Fiat manufactures a wide range of cars, pick-up trucks and lorries in Argentina while Peugeot produces the 404 and 504 saloon cars.

Last year the local Citroen subsidiary announced it was running down local car production and concentrating on marketing imported vehicles.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 28.—Stocks were mixed in active trading after a weak opening this morning. Popular averages moved higher but declined late advances seven-to-five.

International Business Machines recovered one to 63 after dropping 22 yesterday. Storage technology gained 1 to 17; forecast higher year net.

American Telephone, which yesterday reached agreement to settle a civil anti-trust suit brought by International Telephone, rose 1 to 47. ITT eased 1 to 26.

February 27: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 9.13 points up at 855.12.

Gold slightly down

New York, Feb 27. GOLD futures at New York closed slightly higher at \$329.50 (LME \$329.50) after a day of mixed trading. The price of gold in London rose 1 to 47. ITT eased 1 to 26.

February 27: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 9.13 points up at 855.12.

Commodities

COPPER was higher after very steady. It closed at \$1.00 (LME \$1.00) after a day of mixed trading. The price of copper in London rose 1 to 47. ITT eased 1 to 26.

February 27: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 9.13 points up at 855.12.

Discount market

The shortage of day-to-day credit proved far greater than many people were expecting yesterday, the Bank of England yesterday said. It said it was a large amount of assistance. The authorities lent a large sum overnight to five or six houses at 17 per cent. It also bought a small quantity of Treasury bills direct from the houses and a small amount of eligible bank bills for resale at the close after the procedure.

The day followed the now-familiar pattern of houses paying 17 per cent for any scraps of money to be found until the authorities intervened, and then raising balances down to 16 per cent at the close after the procedure.

Balances were a small amount over-target Wednesday night, and Government Treasury transfers to the Exchequer by a small amount.

Money Market

Bank of England Money Market Rate 17% (last closed 16.12.79). Treasury Bill Rate 17% (last closed 16.12.79). Treasury Bill Rate 17% (last closed 16.12.79).

Foreign exchange report

The pound kept very steady throughout trading in the narrow range of 2.2845 to 2.2860 against the dollar before closing a quarter cent off at 2.2850 (2.2875), while the trade-weighted average touched off at 2.2875 and thereafter made no further change. Trading was generally quiet.

Higher bank rates by the Swiss and West German central banks were largely discounted, and the dollar closed firm. After holding around 1.7580-90 for most of the day, it ended higher at 1.7635 (overhead 1.7620) against the deutsche mark, and rose also in terms of Swiss francs, 1.6730 (1.6650). The French franc, however, was flatly unchanged after rising at first.

Sterling Spot and Forward

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
London	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Paris	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Frankfurt	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Geneva	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Basel	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Brussels	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Amsterdam	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850

Dollar Spot Rates

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
London	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Paris	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Frankfurt	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Geneva	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Basel	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Brussels	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Amsterdam	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Stockholm	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Copenhagen	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Oslo	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Stockholm	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Copenhagen	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Oslo	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635

Sterling: Other Markets

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
London	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Paris	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Frankfurt	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Geneva	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Basel	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Brussels	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Amsterdam	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850

EMS European Currency Rates

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
London	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Paris	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Frankfurt	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Geneva	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Basel	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Brussels	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Amsterdam	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Stockholm	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Copenhagen	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850
Oslo	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850	2.2850

Gold

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
London	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Paris	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Frankfurt	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Geneva	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Basel	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Brussels	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Amsterdam	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Stockholm	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Copenhagen	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Oslo	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Stockholm	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Copenhagen	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50
Oslo	329.50	329.50	329.50	329.50

Euro-\$ Deposits

Market rates	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
London	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Paris	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Frankfurt	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Geneva	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Basel	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Brussels	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
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Stockholm	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Copenhagen	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Oslo	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Stockholm	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Copenhagen	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635
Oslo	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635	1.7635

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Motoring
New car models blossom with the spring

The approach of the arrival of the winter, the year looks like a woman. The latest clue to the word, includes two characters of German origin, each appearing in the name during March.

The Vauxhall Astra will be a familiar sight on British streets in all our major cities, and is similar to the Opel Kadett, but it is not quite there, towards the year. To begin with, it is imported from Germany, as the Kadett is, but it is assembled in Britain.

The Kadett has been renamed as one of the Astra range, so the Astra is a new addition to a range that has improved its reputation since General Motors decided that it would appear models would be designed.

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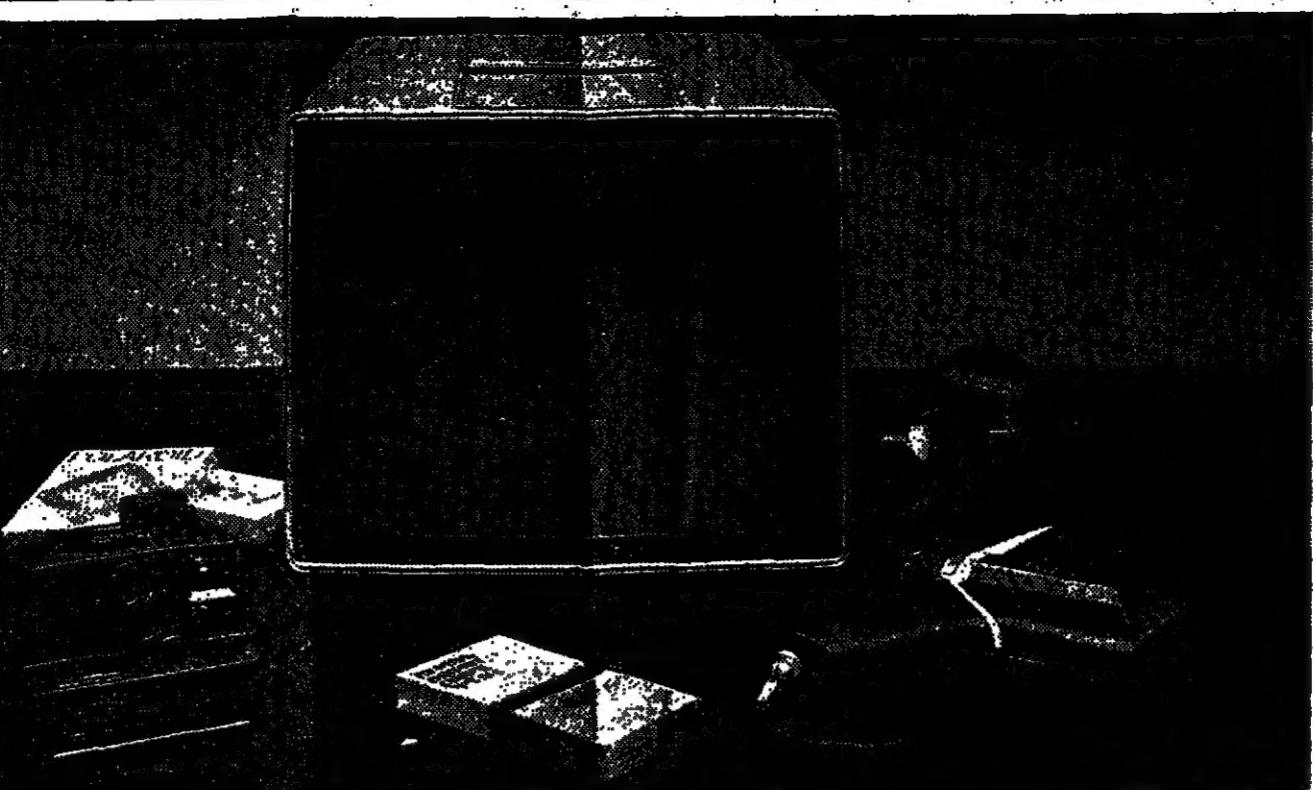
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